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Ukraine Postpones Hearing on START I Ratification

LD1802174593 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1630 GMT 18 Feb 93

[ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Moscow, 18 Feb—The absence of a document on Russia providing Ukraine with guarantees of nuclear safety has prompted the postponement of hearings on the ratification of the START I Treaty by the Ukrainian parliament. Ukrainian Ambassador to Russia Vladimir Kryzhanovsiy stated this to journalists at a meeting of the CIS joint allied forces commander in chief and plenipotentiary and permanent representatives of the Commonwealth states.

According to the Ukrainian ambassador, at talks between Boris Yeltsin and Leonid Kravchuk in Moscow, the Russian president suggested pre-empting the ratification of the treaty on the reduction of strategic offensive weapons by the Ukrainian parliament by providing Ukraine with guarantees of nuclear safety. The Ukrainian side did not insist on such a formulation of the question, but as the initiative emanated from the Russian president himself, "we felt uneasy about not granting such a wish," Kryzhanovskiy said. "That is why we decided to wait until this is done. But, unfortunately, so far there is no text of guarantees that would please both the Russian and the Ukrainian sides," he said.

Chiefs of Staff Meet To Discuss Security Treaty

LD1802175493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1620 GMT 18 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Moscow February 18 TASS—The practical realization of some provisions of the Commonwealth Collective Security Agreement was in the focus of discussion at a meeting of the Committee of the Chiefs of Staffs in Moscow on Wednesday [17 February], according to Colonel-General Viktor Samsonov.

General Samsonov told ITAR-TASS that the Committee of the Chiefs of Staffs considered ways to ensure classified coded communication and principles of planning and controlling the Allied Armed Forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

The committee also considered in principle the distribution and delineation of geostrategic space and the working out of military-geographical descriptions of the territories of the Commonwealth member-countries.

Questions relating to the formation and manning of the Allied Armed Forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States and the collective peace-keeping forces were not considered by the Committee of the Chiefs of Staffs on Wednesday, but, according to Viktor Samsonov, these items may be put on the agenda of the meeting of the Council of the CIS Defence Ministers in Tashkent on February 26.

General Samsonov also noted that the mechanism of introducing peace-keeping forces in conflict regions has yet to be finalized despite the fact that the heads of states have already approved it in principle. The problem is that there is no basis for this mechanism in legislation and the declaration adopted in Minsk by the Council of the Heads of State remains no more than a verbal statement, the general said.

"The four battalions due to be sent to Tajikistan have yet to be manned," Viktor Samsonov said.

Shaposhnikov Supports CIS Collective Security

LD1802153793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1518 GMT 18 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Moscow February 18 TASS—The commander-in-chief of the allied armed forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States, Aviation Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, told the ambassadors and permanent envoys of the Commonwealth member countries in Moscow that "without encroaching on the political sovereignty of the Commonwealth countries, the supreme commandment [as received] is always backing and will back their integration not only in the economic sphere, but also in other fields, including the military policy, the military building and the creation and perfection of a collective security system."

Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov said the council of the defence ministers of the Commonwealth member countries—members of the collective security treaty—will meet next in Tashkent on February 26. The military leaders of the countries which are not members of the collective security treaty will not take part in the meeting.

The Tashkent meeting will concentrate on the fulfillment of the recommendations of the inter-parliamentary assembly made in St. Petersburg last December and the decisions of the Minsk Commonwealth summit.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 19 Feb

LD1902072993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0606 GMT 19 Feb 93

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow February 19 TASS—The government newspaper ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI runs full text of a draft agreement among federal executive and legislative power bodies on stabilising the constitutional system pending the adoption of a new constitution of the Russian Federation. The text was referred to the parliament by President Boris Yeltsin. It is also reported that the president had received a draft constitutional agreement from the leaders of the country's parliament.

The parliamentary newspaper ROSSYSKAYA GAZETA points out that the Yeltsin-proposed initiative to convene an extraordinary Congress of People's Deputies in March for the sole purpose of ratifying the constitutional agreement raises a number of questions.

"Why does the president, while not trusting the congress, suddenly suggest that it ratify the agreement? Does the president's statement that the constitutional authority will go ahead with preparations for a referendum pending ratification of the constitutional agreement look like a hidden threat?" queries the newspaper's analyst Alexey Vorobyov.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA (independent newspaper) believes that the presidential draft agreement is drawn up in such a way that the parliament in its present composition would never agree to it, for it is suggested that not only the power of the government but also the power of the president be enhanced.

PRAVDA, commenting on the presidential draft agreement, states that the document proceeds from the assumption that "there should be one authority—unlimited, outside any jurisdiction and uncontrolled—a presidential one."

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI carries an article headlined "CIS Countries: From the Erosion of Trade-and-Economic Relations to a Common Market," emphasising that the economic situation in Russia and other CIS countries is such that the main task of the year is to "shape a common market of the CIS."

TRUD carries a report by its correspondent who visited units of 14th Russian Army stationed in the Dniester region. Plans are reported to have been prepared for a withdrawal of the army to Russia. The problem is being complicated by the fact that more than a half of the Army's commissioned officers and almost all non-commissioned ones are natives of the region which is the home of their parents and they do not want to go.

Newspapers give prominence to reports from flashpoints in the former Soviet Union. ROSSIYSKIE VESTI reports the stay of a "citizen diplomacy mission" in the area of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict. The mission, consisting of Abkhazians, Georgians and Russians, met with government leaders and members of the Abkhazian parliament. When in Tbilisi, the mission members were received by Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze who stated that, notwithstanding the extremely complex situation, there still exists the possibility of a peaceful solution to the conflict.

"The Ingush Republic will remain part of Russia and will build its relations with it on the basis of the federative treaty," General Ruslan Aushev, the sole candidate for the presidency of this North Caucasian Republic, emphasised in an interview with ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI. A presidential election there is scheduled for February 28.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA carries an interview with General Mikhail Barsukov, chief of the main guard department of the Russian Federation, who stated that the personnel of the department had succeeded in preventing six assassination attempts against Russian leaders.

General Barsukov pointed out that the Russian president's recent visit to India had attracted the attention of Tamil separatists as well. "Those who were assigned to assassinate our president had undergone special training and had Lebanese combat experience," General Barsukov said.

PRAVDA reports Thursday's session of the "People's Tribunal" to examine "anti-constitutional and anti-people acitivities" of former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Clinton Said 'Satisfied' With Moscow Talks on Yugoslavia

LD1902080293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0658 GMT 19 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Matyash]

[Text] Washington February 19 TASS—The White House has expressed hope that cooperation between the United States and Russia and the diplomatic initiatives of the two countries will lead to a peaceful settlement of the explosive Yugoslav crisis.

President Bill Clinton is satisfied with the results of the recent talks held in Moscow by Ambassador Reginald Bartholomew, U.S. special representative at the peace talks on the former Yugoslavia, White House Press Secretary Dee Dee Myers told ITAR-TASS on Thursday.

The president had telephone conversations with President Boris Yeltsin. The Russian leader stated Russia's support for the U.S. efforts towards a quest for a peaceful settlement of the conflict in the former Yugoslavia, she said.

Bill Clinton's response to Russia's stand on the issue is positive. We express hope that Bartholomew's forthcoming meetings with the Russian special representative at the talks on the Yugoslav crisis will promote headway in the peace process, Myers pointed out.

Commentary Views Clinton's Proposals for Higher Taxes

MK1802124693 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 18 Feb 93 p 9

[Georgiy Bovt commentary: "Clinton on His Economic Policy. U.S. President Dubbed 'A Second Carter'"]

[Text] On 17 February, U.S. President Bill Clinton presented his economic policy to Congress. The president called on Americans to make economic sacrifices in the name of future prosperity. The initial reaction to the program shows that his call did not receive an enthusiastic welcome. The main thing that came under criticism was the intention to increase taxes.

Despite his election campaign promise not to raise taxes on family incomes below $200,000 a year, Clinton intends to lower this threshold: Families earning more than $100,000 will pay at least 70 percent in federal taxes (at the moment they account for no more than 40 percent), and the marginal rate of individual income and corporate profit taxes will go up from 31 to 36 percent. A number of indirect taxes will be increased. In a bid to stimulate economic growth, the president proposed the introduction of tax concessions for small businesses regarding start-up capital ($15 billion in all), and the allocation of $16 billion from federal funds for road construction and other public works.

Although Clinton's address contained a call to restore the American dream, the reaction of the pragmatically minded business world proved negative: The Dow Jones index for the New York Stock Exchange fell more than 82 points on 16 February. Most media commentaries concluded that Clinton was "making a mistake." In a still sharper comment, THE NEW YORK TIMES said the other day that "the White House is becoming increasingly wrapped in a fog of incompetence." Critics, who have already dubbed Clinton a "second Carter," note that the raising of taxes will jeopardize the economic recovery (3.8 percent in the fourth quarter of 1992) started under Bush. This also jeopardizes Clinton's promise to halve the budget deficit, which will not be helped either by cutting back the number of federal civil servants (by 100,000), or by trimming the Pentagon budget (by $10 billion by the year 1997), or even by cutting into Medicare, the most sacred of all America's postwar programs, and the social security program.

As for foreign policy (particularly relations with Russia), it has taken a back seat in Clinton's recent speeches: Foreign aid does not fit in with the new economic strategy. Under these conditions, observers think, and in light of increasingly loud calls from Moscow to restore economic relations with its former partners such as Iraq, Libya, and Yugoslavia, the United States' flagging attention toward Russia's economic hardships could find its logical continuation in cooler political relations between the two countries.

U.S. 'Violations' of Mideast Sanctions Detailed

OW1802183493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1756 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Report by diplomatic correspondents Andrey Borodin, Dimitry Voskoboynikov, Igor Porshnev, and others; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The United States uses UN sanctions against Iraq and Libya to establish contacts with industrial and financial circles in those countries, and at the same time puts obstacles on this road for Russia and other nations, Deputy Chairman of Russia's parliamentary committee on international affairs and foreign economic relations, Sergey Mikhailov, told INTERFAX on Thursday. According to him, during the closed hearings held in the Russian parliament last Monday, it transpired that violations of UN sanctions against Iraq and Libya practiced by the USA and some other Western countries have taken place "on a massive scale." Mikhailov confirmed that the hearings revealed that General Electric has signed, through the South Korean firm Brinco, a contract to supply Iraq with advanced radar capable of spotting targets at low altitudes. It was also revealed that, under the cover of official exports of helicopters to Brazil and Paraguay, Bell Helicopter Textron Incorporated and McDonnell-Douglas supplied Iraq with a consignment of spare parts for helicopters.

As well-informed sources explained to INTERFAX, participants in the hearings received the data from "competent sources," which, for their part, had obtained the information from "business circles in Middle East and South-West Asian countries." Mikhailov also cited the following information:

—General Motors signed with Baghdad an agreement on the delivery of technological equipment for building an automotive plant and supplied Iraq through third countries with 350 Oldsmobile cars.

- An affiliation of the German Konex company signed a contract for the delivery of $26.76 Mn worth of spareparts for radar with the Libyan company Alpha Falcon International.

According to Mikhailov, the American Department of Commerce was informed about transactions between American companies and Iraq, but has taken no steps to stop them. There is information, he said, that last December alone huge contracts were signed between the U.S. and Libya.

This data shows, the legislator stressed, that despite tough economic sanctions and numerous resolutions issued by the UN Security Council, that the U.S. and West European countries use the embargo for the purpose of forcing Russia out of the markets of the two countries, which were traditionally oriented towards Russia, and, with the silent blessing of their governments, seek to get a foothold there through a chain of go-betweens.

"The arms market is extremely prone to inertia, and if a country gives it up today, it will find it very hard to regain it years later. This means a colossal blow not only to Russia's interests today, but also to its long-term interests.

The chief of the International Organizations Department of Russia's Foreign Ministry, Dmitry Yudin, has told INTERFAX that he cannot entirely confirm the data cited by Mikhailov. "But such cases (dubious transactions—IF [INTERFAX]) evidently can take place," he added. "This requires careful and objective verification." As IF has learned, some experts in the Russian Foreign Ministry are inclined to believe that, even if UN Security Council resolutions are "interpreted literally," the signing of contracts even in "forbidden areas" cannot be regarded as a violation, since the documents clearly stipulate: the transactions begin to be carried out only when the sanctions are lifted.

Foreign Ministry on Christopher's Middle East Tour

LD1802215393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2010 GMT 18 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow February 18 TASS—The Information and Press Department of the Russian Foreign Ministry has released the following statement today:

"On February 17 U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher began his tour of a number of countries of the Middle East. Moscow welcomes this important initiative of the new American Administration. The day before Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev had a telephone conversation with the U.S. secretary of state in the course of which, as it has become known to us, the two discussed, specifically, a package of issues connected with the Middle East settlement.

Being sponsors of the peace process, the Russian and American sides are continuing the practice of coordinating their activities on this problem, one of the most pressing issues of the present time, which will be included in the programme of the forthcoming meeting between Andrey Kozyrev and Warren Christopher in Geneva.

We are hoping this will make it possible to find solutions to acute conflict situations emerging on the way to the Arab-Israeli peace settlement which is one of the imperatives of our time."

'Fierce Competition' With U.S. Over Aircraft Sales

PM1802161993 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 Feb 93 p 3

[Vladimir Skosyrev report: "Competitive Struggle in Skies of Malaysia. United States Wants To Impede Russia's Breaking into the ASEAN Arms Market"]

[Text] Beijing—Although the "cold war" has ended, the arms trade is still an area of fierce competition between Moscow and Washington.

The epicenter of their rivalry has now shifted to the ASEAN region, and more specifically to Malaysia, which has to decide whose combat aircraft it prefers—Russia's or those of the United States. Hong Kong press reports indicate that Kuala Lumpur is close to concluding a deal with Moscow for the delivery of 18 MiG-29 fighters and six Mi-35 helicopters.

The intention is that India will also be involved in the agreement, since the latter not only has our MiG's in its arsenal but also produces spare parts for them.

However, our U.S. rivals are wide awake. In an endeavor to impede Russia's breaking into the promising arms market in the economically prosperous ASEAN states, the U.S. military-industrial complex has sent off to Malaysia a delegation from the McDonnell Douglas company, which produces the new F-18 fighter. A delegation from General Dynamics should follow in February, its product being the F-16 fighter.

The weekly FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW points out that these visits were preceded by intensive

work on both corporations by the U.S. Embassy in Malaysia. The embassy tried to persuade them: Drop your price, otherwise you will not get the orders. The aircraft construction workers heeded these arguments and made unprecedented concessions—the fighters are being offered to the Malaysians at a discount of $20 million on the price a year ago.

Although officials in Washington are trying to confer political significance on the competitive struggle, hinting at the danger of upsetting the strategic balance of forces in the region if Russia is successful, in actual fact, according to L. Nicks, an analyst from the U.S. Congress research service, the two countries' commercial interests are in conflict in Malaysia, nothing more.

In such situations it is often the person who not only promises the best commodity at a fair price, but is also capable of overtaking his rival that takes the upper hand. The Americans can only supply their customer with aircraft in 44 months. Are our plants ready to fulfill the order more quickly?

U.S. Examining Options for Grain Sales to Russia

PM1802151993 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 18 Feb 93 p 2

[Sergey Gusyakov article: "Two, Four, Six, Eight, On Went the Debate. United States Considers Possibility of Resuming Grain Sales to Russia on Barter Basis. Meanwhile..."]

[Text] Addressing the U.S. Feed Grains Council 8 February, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy said that one of the Clinton administration's main priorities in agricultural policy is the problem of Russia's purchasing power. "Russia is not a market that we can let slip," Espy remarked. USIA reports that the secretary of agriculture has instructed his department's experts to formulate several options for possible government procurement policy shortly. In his opinion, barter represents one such option.

The point is that, after Russia stopped paying its debts last November, its arrears under U.S. agricultural credit guarantees totaled $264.3 million. We are confronted with the following dilemma: Further delays in grain sales to Russia will damage both Russian interests and the U.S. farmers making deliveries under government orders. Further delays in payments would also have a painful effect on U.S. taxpayers, who are acting as guarantors of the loans. In that situation mutually beneficial barter would undoubtedly ease the tension between the trading partners.

But debates are under way in the United States at the moment as to whether grain should be sold to the Russians or not. The Russian Government is seeking its own ways of escaping from the food crisis. A recent directive adopted by the Russian Federation Council of Ministers envisages, for instance, repaying grain debts to Australia with aluminum shipments. And that kind of barter is quite to the Australians' taste. In turn, Australia will send to the Russian market another 1 million tonnes of its grain in February-June this year, with payment spread over two years. Russia benefits from the Australian shipments for a whole number of reasons. Primarily due to the level of prices and the simplicity of the payment mechanism.

In short, in the words of the well-known song "We choose, we are chosen—how often the two fail to coincide." In this case we have chosen the more beneficial option for us: Australian grain at a price of $101.67 per tonne is almost 25 percent cheaper than the price of U.S. grain.

P.S. When the edition had gone to press, the editorial office received a report that the U.S. Department of Agriculture had decided to give Russia 125,000 tonnes of feed wheat worth $18.1 million free of charge (!). The U.S. Department of Agriculture will make these deliveries in accordance with the U.S. law enabling surplus commodities belonging to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Commodity Credit Corporation to be given to developing countries free of charge. We have been honored, so to speak.

The National Association of Cooperatives, a U.S. private voluntary organization, will sell wheat to Russia's elevators for farmers in Tver Oblast. The revenue will be used to buy food products for the needy and to pay for training courses for Russians in agricultural processing and trade, as well as for other Russian agricultural development programs.

Russian Ambassador to United States Interviewed

PM1902090593 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 17 Feb 93 p 5

[Interview with Vladimir Lukin, Russian ambassador to the United States, by correspondent Ye. Ovcharenko; place and date not given: "Are We Going To Build Our New Myth? Vladimir Lukin, Russian Ambassador to the United States, Answers Our Correspondent's Questions"]

[Text] [Ovcharenko] Vladimir Petrovich, what do you feel you are—the ambassador of a great power or of a big country?

[Lukin] The ambassador of a former superpower and a future great country. Russia has not yet taken shape. The transitional period here is taking place in the Russian way—accompanied by an enormous amount of chaos, outrages, and the burning of even the bridges that should have been reconstructed.

[Ovcharenko] Exactly which bridges have been burned in diplomacy, for instance?

[Lukin] In diplomacy bridges have not been burned but myths have been dispelled, in the hope of learning the truth. But in actual fact only new myths have been

created: "New political thinking" has replaced the classical essence of foreign policy. You can see a toy kitten hanging on my wall instead of portraits—a symbol saying come on, guys, let us live amicably. Again a myth: Right now let us make out that we are living tomorrow or even the day after tomorrow in a place where everyone will embrace. That is how we thought but it proved otherwise. Polarity, once destroyed, led not to harmony but to new and in no way lesser complexities. Our country is becoming a civilized part of the whole, but this whole is by no means one-dimensional and does not boil down to a crusade of righteous democrats fighting absolute evil—antidemocrats, for instance. Our policies cannot and must not become a mirror image of other countries' courses, however democratic the countries may be. Incidentally, the world's largest democracy is India. The United States is second in terms of population size. But the differences that exist between them....

[Ovcharenko] Is our diplomacy capable of taking such a position—especially now, when quite often we stand virtually cap in hand?

[Lukin] Diplomacy cannot change anything because it is the application of intellect and tact to a country's policies. And policies are essentially the sum of possibilities they comprise. So, I would not agree with your pessimism: We have possibilities, and they are considerable. Our country continues to possess vast natural resources—although they are being increasingly depleted.

Russia is a country with a powerful strategic potential. This still counts for a lot. We are still able, given very great desire or very great stupidity, to wipe out all mankind at a stroke. Incidentally, the conclusion of the START II Treaty has not changed anything in this respect. If additionally we recall R. McNamara's wise words: Overkill multiplied by overkill is still only overkill.

Nowadays we have a smaller armed forces numerical strength and a reduced intellectual and scientific potential, but all the same it is still a big force. We are only just realizing that we had a brilliant education system, chiefly scientific and technical.

I believe that we must not underestimate our virtues. We must impose order in our own country, and I am convinced that we still have very great potential. We must finally sort out what's what and what can and must be done—otherwise there is an opinion that our country is the most peace-loving because it often does not interfere even in its own internal affairs. A joke, but this really must be sorted out.

[Ovcharenko] Are you familiar with Clinton's new "appointees" who will be dealing with Russia from now on?

[Lukin] Many of these new people are more like "old" acquaintances to me than the previous Bush officials. I became acquainted with current U.S. Secretary of State Christopher a year ago in Jamaica. I recall that, when I left for there as chairman of a parliamentary committee, some Russian newspaper sarcastically reproached me for it. But it is not my fault that at the time the Americans decided to hold a conference that was very representative and promising in its composition not in Alaska but in more of a resort location. At the time I was addressing such people as Senators Lugar and Nunn—those involved in relations with Russia. So, it was then that I became acquainted with Christopher—a laconic, solid, and very serious man. And S. Talbot and Toby Gati, key people in the formation of U.S. foreign policy in the Russian sphere, are old friends of mine.

[Ovcharenko] Why did your particular embassy become a standard example in the Russian press of the fact that our diplomats are leaving for foreign "pastures?" What is your attitude toward this, which is already something of a trend?

[Lukin] There are in fact several aspects to this problem. Laws exist and the person who does not break them should not be persecuted. The law does not prohibit working for the Americans. In our embassy, all colleagues who have changed their place of work have, with one exception, completed their term of service in the Foreign Ministry. From the ethical viewpoint, and this is my opinion, it would be more correct to go home, "hand in one's papers" at the Foreign Ministry, and then take one's leave. But that is their choice. There was only one case I did not like, when a man arrived, found himself a job, and "faded away." Personally I stopped respecting him.

[Ovcharenko] Diplomats' wages are not high but the country is unable to increase them—so sensible people will leave. How can you keep them?

[Lukin] The problem of the disparity between diplomats' wages and the high local living standard is of prime concern to me as ambassador. It is necessary to react to inflation not only in our country: I would ask our ministry and other departments to consider this question.

Everything must be changed lock, stock, and barrel. Because the diplomatic service has become different: Previously it was not only prestigious, it also involved travel and was also well paid. Many alternatives to it have now appeared, and pay in them will be higher in every case. Incidentally, state service in the United States, someone joked, is also a struggle between greed and egocentrism. It is harder for us to attract people not only with material but also with moral incentives: In our country even emigration has become economic rather than political. So Solzhenitsyn is returning to his homeland in its hour of need, while many people are desperate to get away from it.

The Foreign Ministry needs to reform its entire monetary system. Many of my colleagues, and I too, have written about this. It is necessary to switch to more modern financing models in order to reduce running

costs and increase work efficiency. I think that we in Washington could operate with a smaller staff and use the money saved to raise wages. The ambassador should be given a specific sum and told: Decide which is better, to give it out in 40 lots of one or in one lot of 40.

But a wage raise must, in my view, be linked with the introduction of a contract system so that cadres have certain commitments too. In the United States you cannot leave the service just like that, when you have been invited to join a business. Don't join if you don't want to, but if you do join—complete your service.

[Ovcharenko] How do you react to the rumors springing up here and dying down there about your appointment to the foreign minister's post?

[Lukin] I react to rumors with the combination of interest and contempt that is normal for a Muscovite. If you will permit me, I will extend your question: Do I or do I not want this hypothetical appointment? I would say that I really do not want it because I have not yet finished my term here; my work is still just developing. Changing one's place of work is generally a useful thing in life. For the entire period of stagnation I toiled away under the roof of the United States and Canada Institute. I have been in the ambassador's slot only nine months, so I still have time to come up with something outstanding. I want and like to work here—but at the same time my heart aches and I want to be in Russia.

[Ovcharenko] Your younger son is studying in Moscow? Why not here?

[Lukin] Yes, at Moscow University, and not because I am such a mad daddy. It is simply that when he came here on vacation and went round the local educational institutions, the U.S. professors said: No, there is nothing for him to do here, it is not worth studying here.

[Ovcharenko] If at some time a very advantageous proposal is put to you personally to transfer to a job in some U.S. company—is such a decision theoretically possible for you?

[Lukin] I do not rule out that, when I retire on pension or when, for instance, I am kicked out of here, I might think about it. Although I do have other commitments—I am a deputy. While I remain so I cannot leave Russia. If I become a private citizen—then I would think about it. But hardly at all, because I like it better in our country.

At the most difficult times my close friend, the late Mirab Mamardashvili, used to say: Why should I leave this, let "them" leave. Times are also hard right now. But in a different way. In hard times honest people (especially those who are urging others to do something) do not leave their country. Remember Vysotsky: "Don't worry, I haven't left. Don't hope, I won't leave."

Churkin Discusses UN Talks on Bosnia

LD1902091593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0720 GMT 19 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Sitnikov]

[Text] United Nations February 19 TASS—Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin, special representative at the talks on Bosnia, had meetings with U.S. special representative Reginald Bartholomew, and Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen, co-chairmen of the Coordinating Committee of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, at the U.N. headquarters on Thursday.

Preparations for the resumption of the peace talks on Bosnia and Hercegovina with the participation of all Bosnian sides, who are expected to arrive in New York, were discussed during the meetings.

The danger of dragging out the Bosnian peace process was pointed out, and a wish was expressed for the U.N. Security Council to pass a resolution by the end of next week in support of the Vance-Owen plan.

Churkin is due to have a regular meeting with Bartholomew on Friday in the presence of Yuliy Vorontsov, permanent representative of the Russian Federation at the United Nations, and Madeleine Albright, U.S. permanent representative at the United Nations.

Churkin Discusses Peace Plan With Serbia's Milosevic

LD1802220493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1825 GMT 18 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Sitnikov]

[Text] United Nations, 18 Feb—V.I. Churkin, deputy foreign minister of the Russian Federation and Russia's special representatve at the talks on the Yugoslav crisis, who is in New York, has had a telephone conversation with Serbian President S. Milosevic. Churkin stressed the need for the sides to be as constructive as possible in the concluding stage of reaching agreement on the Vance-Owen plan for Bosnia, and no obstacles must be put in the way of the delivery of aid through the United Nations.

In discussing progress toward a settlement, Milosevic reaffirmed his opposition to the sanctions previously adopted against the FRY and noted the balanced and active role of Russian diplomacy at the present stage of the talks.

Kozyrev Rules Out Independent NATO Operation in Bosnia

OW1802160393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1555 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev does not exclude the possibility of using "NATO's infrastructure" as well as new armed contingents from Russia and other countries in the United Nations' operations to carry out the Vance-Owen plan in Bosnia- Hercegovina. Kozyrev told INTERFAX on Thursday that, if the plan is approved, the peace-keeping contingents may have to be reinforced. "Russia is taking part in those forces and will naturally continue to do so," he said.

However, the minister said, there will be no independent NATO operation which is not part of the Vance-Owen plan. "That is ruled out," he said. He thought the NATO infrastructure may, in particular, be used "in order to reduce expenditures, including our own." "Everyone will have to pay for the operation in Bosnia- Hercegovina since it will be carried out under the United Nations' aegis. It would be cheaper to use a NATO airfield than, say, flying via the North Pole," Kozyrev said.

New Gas Prices Prolong Russia-Ukraine Debt Dispute

MK1802120693 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 18 Feb 93 p 9

[Nikolay Podlipskiy report: "Problems in Russian-Ukrainian Relations Delay USSR Debt Repayment Solution"]

[Text] A press conference given on 17 February by Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Shokhin was devoted to relations between Russia and Ukraine and the fulfillment of their foreign debt repayment obligations. Shokhin also used the occasion to announce new prices for Russian gas supplied to the CIS countries.

As was previously announced, the press conference was to focus on the repayment of Russia's foreign debt, but Shokhin took much of the time to dwell on the negotiations between Russian and Ukrainian government delegations. He also commented on splitting the debts and assets of the former USSR between Russia and Ukraine, energy supplies, and the pricing of energy products.

According to Aleksandr Shokhin, the Russian-Ukrainian debt dispute has to be resolved in the near future because the deferral granted by the Paris Club for repayment of the former USSR's debt will expire at the end of March. The solution Russia views as the most favorable, Shokhin said, was the "zero option," whereby Russia would undertake to repay the entire debt, and Ukraine would relinquish its share in the assets of the former Soviet Union.

The key factor in the two countries' economic ties is agreement, which has yet to be reached, on energy supplies and their prices. It will be recalled that the latest round of talks on the subject ended in Moscow on 13 February. The discussions held during the visit by Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Yuriy Yukhnovskiy centered on the price of the Russian natural gas supplied to Ukraine. Under a Russian Government decree, gas supplied to the CIS countries must be charged at not less than 13,000 rubles [R] per 1,000 cubic meters. The Gazprom concern set the price at R15,600 (excluding value-added tax and export duties). Nonetheless, by the time the Ukrainian delegation arrived, taxes had nearly doubled this figure to R26,000. Although this is half the level of world gas prices, it is absolutely unacceptable for Ukraine. Matters are made worse by the fact that because Ukraine is not in the ruble zone, it cannot count on any benefits. According to Aleksandr Shokhin, the only way to lower the price is to convert the export duties, which account for around 25 percent of the gas price, into credits that would be calculated in hard currency so that they are not swallowed by inflation. Afterward, the Ukrainian debt could be converted into Russian property in Ukraine.

Ukraine Takes 'Unconstructive' Stance at Debt Talks

PM1802150393 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 18 Feb 93 p 2

[Russian Government Press Center report: "Debts: Latest Round of Talks"]

[Text] The latest round of talks between the Russian and Ukrainian government delegations has ended in Moscow. The Russian and Ukrainian delegations were led by A. Shokhin, deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government, and Ukrainian First Vice Premier I. Yukhnovskiy respectively. During the discussion they touched on questions pertaining to prices of supplying commodities, primarily natural gas, from Russia to Ukraine and the scale of charges for Russian natural gas in transit through Ukrainian territory for export to third countries. The question of servicing the foreign debt and controlling the former USSR's assets was a separate issue.

When discussing the first two issues they confirmed their mutual intention of switching in mutual transactions to prices and tariffs set at world level. This cannot happen wholesale, but must happen gradually so as to ease the blow to both countries' economies.

On the question of the former USSR's foreign debt Ukraine asked Russia to undertake to pay Ukraine's share to foreign creditors. At the same time Russia would allocate to it part of its share of the former USSR's assets (62 installations were mentioned). That approach would, in the view of the Russian Government, be contrary to common sense since Russia would be forced to make larger foreign debt payments and would at the same time lose part of the former USSR's assets. That would also be in contravention of all the interstate agreements on who is the rightful heir to the foreign debt and the former USSR's assets, agreements that rigidly link entitlement to the assets with foreign debt payments.

As an option the Ukrainian side suggested dividing up the former USSR's foreign debt and assets. But foreign

creditors are opposed to this. That solution to the problem would require the redrawing of previous credit agreements between the USSR and the West.

As a result of Ukraine's unconstructive position, there is a real threat of the talks with foreign creditors breaking down. What is more, it is likely that they will toughen their position since their recent proposals were made on the basis of Russia's taking individual responsibility for the debt. That may make it necessary to pay about $6 billion in 1993, double Russia's real capabilities. This position seems doubly unacceptable inasmuch as Kiev is asking to be accorded the preferential terms of the ruble zone when fixing prices for reciprocal trade in energy sources.

Russia is unable to offer Ukraine large-scale financial aid free of charge by subsidizing prices and paying Ukraine's share of the foreign debt. Especially since no counterconcessions are being offered by the Ukrainians.

Ukrainian Envoy Says Russian Specialists To Repair Missiles

LD1802231193 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2000 GMT 18 Feb 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Ukraine's Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador to Russia Vladimir Kryzhanovskiy in his interview to Vesti has refuted information published in the press that 16 nuclear missiles on Ukrainian territory are in a dangerous condition.

[Begin Kryzhanovskiy recording] The problem is who will carry out the guaranteed maintenance and repairs. An agreement is now being prepared on using Russian specialists, that is, specialists from the Russian Army. Therefore, you should not be dramatizing the situation. Do not worry; there will be no Chernobyl. [end recording]

Rutskoy: International Court Should Decide Crimean Status

OW1802180393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1553 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Despite a recent statement by the Ukrainian Ambassador to Russia, citing that the Crimea legally belongs to Ukraine, on Thursday during a meeting with veterans of war and labor, Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy voiced a different opinion. According to Rutskoy, an international court should determine to which country the Crimea belongs.

Speaking about the situation in the country, Rutskoy said that today the government should pursue a policy aimed, not at the disintegration of the state, but at the restoration of Russian statehood and national consent. In Rutskoy's words, Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin is of the same opinion. "The new premier is trying to do something," the vice president said, "but his efforts are fruitless because, as before, the people who initiated the collapse of the country still occupy key positions in the government." Rutskoy is convinced that Russia should not rely on assistance from the West as the West "does not need a mighty and competitive Russia. We should rectify the situation using our own opportunities."

Defense Ministry Denies Regiment Fighting for Armenians

LD1902121393 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1116 GMT 19 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow, 19 Feb—Russia's Defense Ministry has denied reports quoting Azerbaijani sources alleging the planned stationing of two divisions of Russian troops, being withdrawn from Germany, on Armenia's territory and also on the participation by a Russian motorized infantry regiment in combat operations in Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan's military department also came out on Wednesday with such claims about two divisions and a Russian regiment waging war against Azerbaijan.

A statement of the Russian Federation Defense Ministry press center, distributed today, says that "such reports are provocative and do not correspond with reality."

Rutskoy Criticizes Human Rights Abuses in Baltics

LD1802183093 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1500 GMT 18 Feb 93

[By Mikhail Zotov incorporating statement by Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy in Moscow on 18 February; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy met war and labor veterans in Moscow today. Apart from replies to questions about the worsening of veterans' living conditions against the background of the general lowering of living standards, the vice president expressed his views in connection with the infringement of human rights on an ethnic basis in the Baltic republics, for instance in Latvia.

[Begin Rutskoy recording] Why can't there be a human attitude? Just look at Lithuania. They have chosen a zero option: everyone who lives there, be they veteran or not—a young man—provided you have a residence permit, is a Lithuanian citizen. This is a civilized approach—civilized. In other places you see what is happening. This is precisely the discrediting of democracy and the discrediting of reforms. The most important problem today in the Commonwealth of Independent States must be resolved—this is the human rights problem—so that a person who today lives in the Commonwealth of Independent States should never experience

anywhere any oppression or some, so to speak, influence on the part of some political forces or other because of his ethnic group. [end recording]

Rumors of Russian Units' Deployment in Caucasus Denied

PM1802131193 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 17 Feb 93 p 3

[Petr Karapetyan report: "145th Division Is Not Protecting Adzhar Border"]

[Text] Tbilisi—Certain media sources, Georgian television in particular, claim that the Gyumri-based 128th Motorized Infantry Regiment from the Group of Russian Forces in the Transcaucasus is fighting on the side of Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh, and that the 145th Motorized Infantry Division stationed in Batumi has undertaken to protect the borders of Adzharia in order to shield the autonomous formation from possible invasion by the Georgian National Guard.

Our correspondent asked Lieutenant General Aleksandr Gerasimov, first deputy commander of the Group of Russian Forces in the Transcaucasus, to comment on the situation.

"These claims are unfounded. I do not know in whose interests it is to inflame passions around the 128th Regiment, and I do not know who is inflaming these passions, but I hereby state quite officially that the regiment is in Gyumri—its place of permanent deployment—and it is involved in systematic combat training.

"I can say the same about the 145th Motorized Infantry Division from Batumi. Neither the units nor subunits of this combined unit have undertaken to protect the autonomous formation's borders. And the Republic of Georgia leadership is making no claims against us. But there are forces within the republic which would like to see the division removed from the Adzhar capital."

"Why?"

"Obviously, there is someone who dislikes the good relations between the division command and the autonomous formation's leadership. We note with some satisfaction that there is a most favorable attitude toward Russian servicemen here. Unlike other regions of Georgia, people here do not commit unlawful acts against them, and they do not organize provocations. The autonomous formation's leadership shows understanding for the needs of Russian servicemen, and it does everything in order to help them."

Grachev Visits Kuwait, Bahrain, Returns to Abu Dhabi

PM1802133193 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 18 Feb 93 p 1

[Report by Viktor Lebedev, Georgiy Shelenkov, and ITAR-TASS: "Russian and Kuwaiti Defense Ministers Sign Memorandum"]

[Text] As already reported, Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian Federation defense minister, arrived on a two-day visit to Kuwait from Abu-Dhabi 15 February. He was met at Al Kuwayt International Airport by Emirate Defense Minister Shaykh 'Ali Sabah al-Salim al-Sabah; Major General Shaykh Jabir Khalid al-Sabah, chief of general staff; and other officials.

In a statement for the press, the Kuwaiti minster indicated that Pavel Grachev's visit is the first important step in the direction of extending Kuwaiti-Russian cooperation.

The Russian defense minister was received by Shaykh Jabir al-Sabah, the Amir of Kuwait, 16 February. He also had a meeting with Prince Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, heir apparent and head of the Emirate Government. The Russian and Kuwaiti defense ministers discussed the situation in the Persian Gulf and in the Near East region as a whole, and the prospects for developing bilateral relations in all spheres, including the military. The talks resulted in the signing of a memorandum of mutual understanding between the Russian Federation Ministry of Defense and the State of Kuwait Ministry of Defense.

The memorandum specifically envisages an exchange of delegations and of work experience between the military departments, exchange of information on weapons questions, and the introduction of the post of communications officer in both countries' diplomatic missions. On the basis of this document it is proposed to sign an agreement between the Russian Federation and Kuwait in the sphere of defense in Moscow this summer.

P. Grachev flew out of Al Kuwayt to Manama, the capital of Bahrain, 16 February. The high-ranking Russian guest was greeted at Manama International Airport by Bahrain Defense Minister Khalifa Bin-Ahmad Al Khalifa. Army General Pavel Grachev was received by Prince Khamid Bin 'Isa Al Khalifa, commander in chief of the Armed Forces and heir apparent of this island state in the Persian Gulf.

On concluding his meetings, at which issues of developing Russian-Bahraini relations were discussed, the Russian Federation defense minister returned to Abu-Dhabi.

Japan's Watanabe 'Forced To Backtrack Over Russia'

PM1702160193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Feb 93 p 3

[Sergey Agafonov report: "Washington Persuades Tokyo To Support Russian Reforms"]

[Text] Tokyo—Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe has been on a visit to the United States—Tokyo's first official contact with the new U.S. Administration.

His trip was followed with a certain tension in Japan, as the horizons of Japanese-U.S. relations have been enveloped by a dense pall of mutual dissatisfaction in recent months. This visit did not disperse that pall: Commentators here have unanimously agreed that, for the Japanese, life with Clinton will be tougher than with Bush.

This assessment is based not just on the host of trade and economic conflicts, where, given mutual understanding, things are not so bad, but on certain foreign policy factors, wherein two major ones—China and Russia—stand out.

Watanabe's task, according to the Japanese newspapers, included persuading his partners to be a bit softer on the Chinese and a bit tougher on the Russians. In the upshot the Americans did not yield to the attempts at persuasion, demonstrating a unified stance opposed to the Japanese one: Washington has no intention of slackening the reins over human rights and armaments in respect of Beijing and is not inclined to soft-pedal over its all-around support for the Russian reforms. The traditional support for Japan in its territorial dispute with Russia, noted in official conversations with the U.S. side, did not sweeten this pill and, because of the divergences which emerged, Tokyo's special approach became even more "special," which led to several significant modifications being made to the Japanese position actually during the visit by the head of the Foreign Ministry.

Watanabe, in particular, was forced to backtrack over Russia and to make a number of statements of a purely positive kind addressed to Moscow—the Japanese minister noted that Tokyo is in no way opposed to helping the Russian reforms, that the Japanese side is seeking to maintain a level of aid comparable to other Western countries, and that Japan, as host of the next G-7 meeting, has decided to invite President Yeltsin and will not link this invitation to the territorial issue or the carrying out of the Russian leader's postponed visit to Tokyo. These nuances were expressed after the U.S. secretary of state, secretary of defense, and national security adviser noted, each in his own way, the commitment to the course of supporting the Russian reforms, pointing out that everyone, including the Japanese, will benefit from the success of the reforms.

Primakov Visit to Germany 'Shrouded in Secrecy'

MK1802100593 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 Feb 93 p 1

[Report by Aleksandr Politskiy, RIAN correspondent in the FRG, for NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA: "Primakov's Visit to the FRG Was Shrouded in Secrecy"]

[Text] And that [referring to headline] came as no surprise. If our countries' best welders had met, the sparks would doubtless have been flying in all directions. Or, for instance, popular singers—everything would have been visible and audible, to both the public and the press, incidentally. But this is a sensitive matter: intelligence... counterintelligence... The director of Russia's Foreign Intelligence Service [FIS] was holding consultations for the first time in the FRG with the coordinator of the activity of the German special services, Berndt Schmidbauer, minister of state at the office of the federal chancellor; visiting the headquarters of the federal intelligence service BND in Pullach near Munich and talking with its leader Konrad Portsner [name as transliterated]; and meeting with Ekart Vertebakh [name as transliterated], head of the department for safeguarding the constitution. This is clearly no place for the glasnost that was fashionable only recently in some quarters.

Journalists, including Russians, were bending over backwards to get hold of some kind of information. An admission filtered out from circles "close" to the Russian Federation Embassy that the arrival of our FIS director came as a surprise even to them, while from other circles surrounding Primakov himself there was the reassuring and encouraging news: "You will get full information in Moscow."

Admittedly, to be fair, it must be said that it is not clear which side was showing most initiative in cutting off the flow of information to the press. It was only thanks to the reliable channels of DPA itself, whose correspondents are traditionally a very close-knit group, that certain topics of Primakov's conversations with his German partners became clear: cooperation in combating international terrorism, the drugs trade, and air piracy; details of the work of their missions that have already opened, without much publicity, "under cover" of the embassies in Bonn and Moscow respectively; and the true extent of radioactive contamination of the Baltic Sea.

According to the magazine DER SPIEGEL, the Soviet Union, not having given it much thought, or rather, not caring about the possible consequences, sank two foreign ships there, including a combat submarine. According to the Vudz Khoul [as transliterated] American institute of marine research in Massachusetts, cited by the newspaper DIE WELT, the coastal waters of the North Sea—on the Soviet side, naturally—are absolutely packed with nuclear filth and spent reactors that have been sunk there. And submarines, too. The nuclear radiation exceeds that from Chernobyl. DIE WELT writes that at least five reactors from submarines and three from the icebreaker Lenin have been sunk. Moreover, mention is made of two of our nuclear submarines with nuclear arms on board which lie on the sea bed off the coasts of France and Norway.

Naturally, it may be assumed that Primakov had to provide "explanations" on these matters. It is quite likely that the competent bodies also raised the problem

of the international smuggling of nuclear raw materials. It is no accident that in a recent interview BND Vice President Paul Muenstermann stated that today our two countries' special services cannot be referred to as adversaries—those are yesterday's realities, he said.

The BND deputy chief pointed to the danger for the whole of Europe that lies in efforts by certain third countries to "get hold" of nuclear specialists from the former USSR. Once again, it is not known what successes they have had in that direction, because reports in the Russian mass media differ greatly from Western "conjectures," but the problem undoubtedly exists. If only in terms of the social protection of the best minds in the military- industrial complex in the context of the wholesale transition of the national economy to the market system.

Late Tuesday evening Germany's second television channel managed finally to reach Yevgeniy Primakov, who was clearly in a good mood and assured them that "the special services themselves do not conduct a cold war, because they are the natural continuation of the state mechanism." However, he made it clear that between Germany and Russia, apart from areas where "their interests coincide," there are other areas where that cannot be the case. In response to a final and apparently jocular question: "Did you bring a list of your spies to Bonn?"—Yevgeniy Maksimovich said, with similar naive humor, that he "would not mind" obtaining such a list from his German colleagues.

Political Issues

Yeltsin Addresses Nation on 'Crisis of Authority'

LD1802195193 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1735 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Speech to the nation by President Boris Yeltsin on 18 February; place not given—recorded]

[Text] Hello, esteemed television viewers, citizens of Russia: Whether we can maintain stability in our country and the peaceful and gradual nature of our reforms is an issue that has probably been worrying everyone, especially recently. Probably by now everyone is tired of the tension and conflicts regarding the relations between Russia's bodies of authority. They constantly dominate the television screens and are reflected in the extremely sharp polemics in the newspapers.

Every citizen of Russia, without exception, can feel for themselves what serious harm the conflicts cause every family. It has become the norm now. If a question cannot be resolved in one office, then you have to go to another one, to a third one, and so on. As a result of this, there are masses of mistakes, abuses, corruption, and confusion.

I could cite hundreds of examples when the administration of a town or oblast forbids something, while the local soviet permits exactly the same thing, or vice versa. One body allots a plot of land to its owner, while another body allots the same plot of land to someone else. This is taking place in Moscow and throughout the whole of Russia. The longer this goes on, the greater the confusion which eventually works to the detriment of the citizen and the state. It not only increasingly holds back, but literally ruins all the reforms and leads to the squandering of Russia's wealth and our national property.

In such a situation it is difficult to speak about restoring order, strengthening legality, and ensuring people's safety. At times people say that this is one of the costs of the transitional period, that they are inevitable. Of course, the times now are difficult and all the more so since there are forces in Russia which find such confusion to their benefit and for which it is in their interests for the reforms to fail and for people to give up on them.

The roots of the political tension are well known. They lie in the cumbersome system of administration which we inherited from the past and which now appears in the form of All power to the soviets. This striving, which will not die down, to take the place of absolutely everything—the government, the president, the judicial bodies—to have control of them but not to be responsible for anything, hiding behind the joint nature of decisionmaking—this is primarily what is causing this tension.

Of course, in some regions the soviets and the administrations are able to find a common language. But unfortunately, these are exceptions to the rule. The overall situation continues to remain complicated. But this does not mean that we should stand idly by and just watch from the sidelines as the crisis of power deepens. Even if it cannot be resolved, it can, at least, be considerably alleviated.

There are two ways toward this goal, I think. The first one is an all-Russian referendum, at which the people themselves, the electors themselves, will speak their will. The wording of the questions will play a crucial role here. These questions should be clear-cut, simple, and, above all, geared toward resolving this crisis. I intend to make public the package of my wordings in the next few days.

Unfortunately, the Supreme Soviet has not yet done the same thing. There are various versions of the questions, but none of them has been approved by the Supreme Soviet.

The second way to resolve the crisis of authority involves difficult and intense talks on attaining consensus and—the main thing—on finding guarantees that the agreements will be fulfilled.

You know, esteemed viewers, that such talks are already under way. At the same time, work is continuing on preparing the referendum. The question is sometimes asked: Perhaps we should not go ahead with it; the situation in the country now is difficult; it will be expensive. There is some doubt whether the electorate will turn out. But the main thing is that talks have begun and there is a possibility of achieving agreement.

All the same, however, today I am in favor of continuing the preparations for the referendum. Unfortunately, there are no reliable guarantees that such accords will be reached and, most important, that they will be implemented.

I expect you remember that several times last year I presented such suggestions to the Supreme Soviet and the congresses. What is more, I did not simply express a wish, but suggested a platform for cooperation. The first time this was done was at the Sixth Congress last spring, then in September at the Cheboksary meeting, in October at the Supreme Soviet, and finally in December at the Seventh Congress. Then it was suggested that a period of stabilization be declared, to restrain from confrontation for a year or 18 months if not more, and to establish cooperation. All of this was completely ignored.

It is only thanks to a direct appeal to the nation and the threat of a referendum that they have been forced, at last, to sit down at the negotiating table and work out an agreement on strengthening the constitutional system. It has subsequently been adopted by the congress as a resolution.

In this way preparations for the referendum today are a kind of guarantee that negotiations will continue. If the negotiations are unsuccessful, we will still have one constitutional method of settling the crisis of power. So I appeal especially to you, esteemed Russians, to come to the polling stations.

Now, on the progress of our talks with the Supreme Soviet. I would like to stress that these negotiations are not about a trade- off or making a deal behind the nation's back. I am in favor of holding them in the open and keeping the citizens of Russia well informed about progress on this issue. The main task of negotiations is to create, at last, conditions for political stability and to get Russia out of crisis. We should give the president, the government, and the Supreme Soviet an opportunity to carry on with their normal work. We all live in the same country, and we all want to preserve it and make it well organized. Can't we agree and together fight the only enemy we have today—the crisis? I am sure that we can, and we have to do this.

An accord was reached the day before yesterday to work out an joint agreement between federal bodies of the legislative and executive powers of the Russian Federation on the stabilization of the constitutional order for the period until the new constitution of the Russian Federation is adopted, in order to take the country out of the economic crisis. A working group has been set up to prepare it. On the president's side it is composed of Vladimir Filippovich Shumeyko, first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers; Deputy Chairman Sergey Mikhaylovich Shakhray; Sergey Aleksandrovich Filatov, head of the president's administration; Anatoliy Yakovlevich Sliva, deputy head of the state legal directorate; and Vladimir Aleksandrovich Tumanov, senior researcher at the State and Law Institute. These five people are on the president's side, and the Supreme Soviet proposed five people on their side.

The working group should prepare the final text of the conciliatory document within 10 days. The president's draft has already been prepared and yesterday it was officially handed over to the Supreme Soviet. I have also received several documents from the Supreme Soviet, a number of proposals from the Legislation Committee and the Constitutional Commission. Evidently, work on this option of the Supreme Soviet still continues. The president's draft will be published.

Now I would like to talk briefly about the main, fundamental points of this document.

The president and the Supreme Soviet commit themselves first and foremost not to interfere with one another's authorities—that is the most important thing—and to put rigorously into practice the principle of the division of powers. In accordance with this constitutional principle, the congress does not have the right to examine or decide any questions it pleases, the decision says. The powers of the congress, as of other bodies of authority, should be clearly outlined. It does not have the right to interfere with the prerogatives of either executive or judicial authority.

It is expected that no legislative acts or amendments to those that can upset the balance of powers will be adopted during the time while the agreement is in force. And vice versa, amendments will be introduced into legislation to strengthen the principle of the division of powers. Adopting a conciliatory document makes it possible to reduce the severity of the constitutional crisis to a certain extent. This means that it will be possible to hold out for a while with the current constitution and to avoid a hectic state and excessive haste in adopting a new constitution. Of course, there is a condition which should be observed without fail: The president, the Supreme Soviet, and the congress will not put forward any proposals on introducing alterations or additions to the constitution now in force. The Seventh Congress has demonstrated that any amendment to it, however insignificant it may be, can disturb the unsteady equilibrium and cause a sharp aggravation of tension.

The new constitution should not be adopted by deputies of the current parliament. A constitutional assembly should adopt it. If the president fails to observe the document agreed upon by this constitutional assembly, then he must resign.

The agreement envisages that the new constitution should not be adopted by the current corps of people's deputies. I think that the best thing would be if it were adopted by a constitutional assembly especially set up for such a case. After the adoption of the constitution, it should be dissolved immediately. Its deputies would then adopt the basic law not to suit their own purposes, but for Russia and its citizens.

The most important question is what will happen if the document agreed upon is not observed. Our version makes provisions for this: If the president does not fulfill the agreement, and the Constitutional Court verifies this, then the president must resign.

If the agreement is not fulfilled by the Supreme Soviet, and the Constitutional Court verifies this, then the president dissolves the Supreme Soviet.

There, in brief, you have a few points from the draft, which a working group is to work on. I intend to keep you informed, esteemed television viewers, on how events develop in the future.

I want to address the people's deputies of Russia. At the talks I made a proposal that an extraordinary congress should be called to decide one single question, on the ratification of the agreement, if it is worked out. I am sure that I do not need to explain to you how necessary the agreement is to Russia today, to the citizens of our country. Such an agreement could become a turning point, the beginning of genuinely constructive and friendly work by all the branches of authority and all the people.

It is all the more important to reject all attempts to use that congress for new political games and intrigues. I have faith in you, people's deputies; I have faith in your responsibility before your electors.

And one more thing. The question of early elections of the president and the corps of deputies has been coming

up often recently. In particular, it is suggested that they should be held no later than the spring of 1994 and, what is more, simultaneously. My opinion is as follows:

I support early elections, both for the corps of deputies and the president, only at different times—exactly a year earlier than the expiration of the period. That is, the deputies will be elected in the spring of 1994, and the president in the spring of 1995. Then there will be an equivalent reduction of one year in the period of power for both legislative and executive powers.

I consider it impermissible to hold the elections simultaneously. The continuity and smoothness of the transition of power to a new generation of politicians, and through this, stability in the country, should be preserved at any cost.

Of course, the new elections ought to be held in accordance with a new law, but one does not exist for the time being. Taking into account the importance of this issue and the need to draw up a truly potent law, I propose to announce an all-Russian competition for the best draft law on elections to the supreme bodies of state authority. The jury could be made up of Russian people's deputies and leading scientists specializing in law and jurisprudence.

Esteemed television viewers, concord can and should be reached. Both Russia and we are tired of tension and confrontation. We need a respite, like air. We have too many things to do to waste time and strength on a fruitless fight with each other. I believe that common sense will prevail. The year 1993 should be declared the year of the economy, a peaceful policy, and constructive work. This is precisely what we all want. Thank you for your attention.

'Abridged' Draft Agreement on Power Sharing Published

MK1902102093 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 Feb 93 p 1

["President's Draft Agreement Between the Federal Legislative and Executive Bodies of the Russian Federation on Stabilizing the Constitutional System Pending the Adoption of a New Constitution of the Russian Federation (abridged)"—paragraph numbering as published]

[Text] The president undertakes:

1. Not to interfere in the prerogatives of the legislative branch, and to ensure that the constitutional principle of division of powers is observed by all the executive bodies;

2. Not to use the right of legislative initiative to submit bills that upset the balance of power;....

5. To create conditions for the effective operation of the Council of Ministers—the Government of the Russian Federation; to ensure that priority is given to economic projects and that they are submitted without delay as a legislative initiative; all draft edicts and laws pertaining to budgetary expenditures shall be coordinated with the government;

6. Jointly with subjects of the Federation, to draw up a program of measures on implementing the Federation Treaty;

7. To safeguard the territorial integrity of the Russian Federation and its subjects by taking all the requisite measures provided for by the Constitution and the laws of the Russian Federation;....

9. To ensure the protection of Russian people outside the Russian Federation, and take measures to settle conflicts that threaten the lives and security of Russian people.

The Supreme Soviet undertakes:

1. Not to interfere in the prerogatives of the executive branch, and to ensure that the constitutional principle of division of power is observed by all bodies and institutions of representative authority;

Guided by the principle of the division of powers that is enshrined in Articles 1 and 3 of the Constitution of the Russian Federation, not to apply, as of the moment the present agreement has been signed, Article 104, Part 2 and Article 109, Paragraph 26 of the Russian Federation Constitution (NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA editorial note: This means the abolition of the power of the Congress of People's Deputies to define Russia's domestic and foreign policy);

2. To put an end to actions aimed at preventing the executive bodies from exercising their powers;

3. Not to adopt laws and amendments to laws upsetting the balance of powers that is established under the present Agreement; to make appropriate amendments to the current legislation that will ensure that this balance is maintained and that the constitutional principle of the division of powers is observed....

6. To take all requisite legislative measures to protect the territorial integrity of the Russian Federation and its subjects, and to stop armed conflicts, attempts to resolve ethnic and territorial disputes by force, and attempts to overthrow forcibly the constitutional authorities;....

Administration of Property and Finances:

1. Federal property will be administered by the Government of the Russian Federation. The Supreme Soviet-controlled agencies and institutions that exercise executive and administrative functions will be abolished, or transferred into the system of executive power, or made subordinate to the Government of the Russian Federation. In particular, the Russian Federal Property Fund will be abolished. The federal extra-budgetary foundations will be placed under control of the executive. The Central Bank of Russia, Vneshekonombank [Bank for Foreign Economic Activity], Vneshtorgbank [Bank for Foreign Trade], the Russian State Statistics Committee,

and the Pensions Fund of the Russian Federation will be transferred to the control of the Russian Federation Government, while remaining accountable to the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet. The heads of these establishments will become members of the Russian Federation Government.

2. Credit and money-issue decisions will be made by the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet only in coordination with the Russian Federation Government.

On constitutional reform:

The President and the Supreme Soviet will:

1. Refrain from legislative initiatives aimed at altering or supplementing the Constitution (Fundamental Law) of the Russian Federation, or at adopting a new Constitution of the Russian Federation by the people's deputies of the Russian Federation elected at the time;

2. In order to adopt a new Constitution (Fundamental Law) of the Russian Federation, a Constitutional Assembly will be elected (formed).

Guarantees of the Agreement:

1. Should the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation find that the president of the Russian Federation has failed to observe the present Agreement, the president will tender his resignation, which will be accepted by the Russian Federation Congress of People's Deputies.

2. Should the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation find that the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet has failed to observe the present Agreement, the president of the Russian Federation will dissolve the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet and terminate the powers of officials of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet elected by the Russian Federation Congress of People's Deputies.

The procedures and time frame for reelecting the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet in this event will be defined by the Russian Federation president.

Political Leaders View Yeltsin-Khasbulatov Agreement

MK1802125693 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 18 Feb 93 p 1

[Article by Vadim Poegli, Yuliya Khaytina: "Yeltsin Is No Longer a Great Leader, But Only a President"]

[Text] Our newspaper was right after all when it wrote 10 days ago: "The president is like a primus-stove—when you prime it, it sizzles." Apparently the opponents of the referendum were the most successful in "priming" the president. This is only natural, given that even members of the Presidential Council (people chosen by Boris Yeltsin himself) do not want a referendum. "It is suicidal, at a time when the economic situation is dramatically worsening, to involve the masses in political struggle," writes Andranik Migranyan, a political scientist and member of the Presidential Council, as he compares 1993 with 1917.

It must be the first time that the president has refused to follow his "animal instinct," abandoning it in favor of the scenarios drafted by "highbrow" analysts. At a meeting with Khasbulatov (it lasted only 20 minutes, which, more eloquently than assurances about a "constructive climate," testifies to the nature of the personal relations between the president and the speaker), Yeltsin suggested that a working group be set up to draft a constitutional agreement on the division of powers, and even that a Congress session should be called in early March to approve it.

So far, Vladimir Shumeyko and Sergey Shakhray, who were "empowered" by the president, and Nikolay Ryabov, acting on behalf of the speaker, have promised to show each other their versions of the new draft agreement. Meanwhile, quite a few other people have been engaged in a sort of competition to come up with drafts of their own. Drafts have been produced by heads of administrations, the "Conciliation for Progress" faction in the Supreme Soviet, and even individuals like Mikhail Mityukov, chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet's Legislation Committee.

Interestingly, the hitherto monolithic factions have begun to split up over the issue. Part of Russian Unity favors a referendum on 11 April, while the other is dead set against it. Part of the Reform coalition does not believe in any agreements, while the other, following the turns in the president's general line, supports the new compromise. When on 17 February, reform coalition experts took stock of their strength at the Congress, they shed a few tears: Advocates of the reform course comprised a mere 350 deputies, while the opposition had 550. Even the undecided who came down on the side of the coalition will hardly be able to salvage the situation.

Of course, the masses were involved in political battles not only in October 1917, but also in August 1991. There is no way, however, that Yeltsin can now match his popularity rating then of over 80 percent. Apparently, the situation in Russia has changed gradually, but radically. The "shock therapy" must now be paid for. Moreover, the country has no absolutely charismatic leader, which is not a very good thing, because Russian democracy has still a very long way to go until it reaches the Western model.

We asked some of the most prominent political figures and parliamentary faction leaders to comment on the agreement reached between the president and the speaker.

Vladimir Varov, a leader of the Radical Democrats faction and the parliamentary reform coalition:

"The idea of the new agreement appears very dubious to me, to put it mildly. To postpone the referendum in Soviet terminology simply means to cancel it and deny people the right to declare their will. I am convinced that any results of the referendum will at the very least shake the chairs under the chiefs of legislative and executive branches. This was actually why the idea of the new agreement appeared in the first place.

"No matter what agreement is adopted by an extraordinary congress, however, it will never be able to improve the situation. They will still all be pulling in different directions, while the agreement will not be observed, just like all the previous ones."

Sergey Stankevich, presidential adviser:

"In spite of all the gloomy prophecies, the mere fact that the leaders of the two branches of power have met and reached provisional agreement offers the hope that subsequent developments will follow an optimistic scenario. Both parties have every possibility of finalizing their agreement by Monday, 22 February, and immediately releasing it for public discussion.

"In order to give the agreement legal force, it should be codified as a constitutional law. To this end, before 26 February the Supreme Soviet could consider and adopt a constitutional law formalizing the agreement, and also pass a decision to hold a session of the Congress of People's Deputies, for instance on 4 and 5 March.

"The Congress should convene to consider just one issue—the passing of the constitutional law. It would be a good thing if shortly before the session, political parties and movements could hold an all-Russian roundtable meeting. How this would be set up and operate could be defined by, among others, the people who took part in the negotiations on the constitutional agreement. Depending on how this scenario unfolds, the question as to the expediency of the referendum could be resolved. It could, all sides consenting, cover certain questions that were not included in the agreement. It could also be postponed. The main thing is that in this case it would no longer be an instrument of confrontation.

"The referendum, after all, is not an aim in itself. It is only a method of achieving long-term political stabilization. It would not be at all bad if this could be accomplished without a referendum."

Mikhail Astafyev, coordinator of the Russian Unity opposition bloc:

"I envision two ways in which the situation could develop. Either the referendum is held in April and then, because the president is bound to lose it, Yeltsin will resign. (Please, understand that Yeltsin is not a mythical foe, but a real one, and I am convinced of this). Or else the Congress—saving 20 billion rubles—again makes the government subordinate to the Congress and the Supreme Soviet, effectively barring the president from having direct control over the Council of Ministers. Any other options are not to my liking."

Sergey Shakhray, Russian vice premier:

"In addition to myself, negotiations on the president's behalf will be conducted by Sergey Filatov, Anatoliy Sliva, the president's legal representative in parliament, and Law Professor Tumanov. The constitutional agreement might in fact turn out to be not a subject of bargaining, but a mutual retreat, with both the Kremlin and the Supreme Soviet temporarily giving up some of their powers. The Constitutional Court and the subjects of the Federation could act as guarantors of this "peace agreement." Following a ruling by the court, any party that broke the agreement would resign.

"No changes for the better are possible without ending this 'dual power' situation and stopping parliament from commanding the national economy via the state banks that are accountable to it."

Shumeyko Says Constitutional Agreement To Ease Conflict

OW1802181893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1745 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The draft of the constitutional agreement prepared by the president's delegation would ease the conflict between the branches of power and "untie the hands of the government" for the period while reforms are being conducted. Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Vladimir Shumeyko announced this in an interview with INTERFAX Thursday. He said the agreement should be effective only until a new constitution is adopted in Russia.

Shumeyko believes the agreement between the branches of power should be ratified by the Russian Congress of People's Deputies. The vice premier acknowledged that "at this point it is difficult to say whether the deputy corps will approve the draft or not." "If the entire Congress does not accept the agreement, it could lead to a curtailing of reforms," he stated.

According to Shumeyko, the Supreme Soviet's delegation has not yet prepared its draft of the Constitutional agreement. The president was given only the proposals prepared by the Committee for Legislation and the Constitution Commission's working group, he explained.

The vice premier said that on February 20 the working group will hold a joint session to develop a single document. In the meantime, Shumeyko said he would continue making preparations for the referendum on the main tenets of the new Russian Constitution. He thinks the bulletin for the vote should include the following questions: "Do you agree nationally elected president is the head of state?" and "Do you agree that the new

Constitution should be adopted by a Constituent Assembly specially formed for this purpose?" Shumeyko added that it would be advisable to include a question on land ownership in the bulletin.

The vice premier indicated that it would be difficult to organize the referendum by April 11, the deadline set by the Congress. He believes the plebiscite should be conducted in the fall. He added that he predicts there will be "active opposition to the referendum from various parties and social organizations," but he is convinced that the referendum is necessary.

Rutskoy Says 'Democracy' Leading to 'Collapse' of State

LD1802142393 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 18 Feb 93

[By correspondent S. Dadyko; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Dadyko] Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy today attended a ceremonial gathering devoted to the 75th anniversary of the Armed Forces in the Central House of the Russian Army.

Although in his speech Aleksandr Vladimirovich addressed quite a few warm words to the defenders of the fatherland, he paid much greater attention to assessing the economic situation in the country. The vice president quite harshly criticized government action to give effect to the reforms, declaring that the administrative-command system for managing the economy had been destroyed, while nothing had been created in its place. Most of the decisions adopted by the authorities were not being implemented in the localities. [Video shows close-up of Rutskoy speaking.]

[Begin Rutskoy recording] The law comes first. The law is for the equality of all. That is democracy. What is happening today, if you have opened your eyes and looked, it is far from being a democracy. It is a democracy that is leading to the collapse of the state. [end recording]

[Dadyko] In conclusion, the vice president urged civic concord on veterans who were immediately ready to hold rallies, pointing out that there were more civilized ways than rallies to attain political goals of any kind.

Poltoranin: Referendum Last 'Peaceful' Way To Solve Crisis

LD1802143293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1401 GMT 18 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Ivanova]

[Text] Moscow February 18 TASS—"The forthcoming referendum is possibly the last attempt to settle the goverment issue in Russia by peaceful means," head of the Russian Federal Information Centre Mikhail Poltoranin told a meeting of leaders of CIS news services and representatives from information agencies of some neighbouring states, now under way at ITAR-TASS.

He stressed that Russia had already voted for presidential rule in 1991, and the people had given to Boris Yeltsin their mandate to conduct the reforms. The fact that the elections where nation-wide, shows that the president is the head of this country with all the attendant consequences. According to Poltoranin, "the government and the Supreme Soviet are, so to speak, two shoulders of the president, helping him to discharge his duties". But gradually one of these "shoulders"—the representative branch of government—profiting by flaws in the constitution, began to usurp power, especially in the financial sphere, to pressure the president, thereby eroding the government system.

Poltoranin recalled that the slogan "all power to the Soviets" had not up to the mark even in Lenin's days. The stay of Bolsheviks in power has proved the inefficiency of the Soviets. It was found necessary to urgently consolidate the party apparatus as the pivot of executive power. Formerly, this pivatal role was played by the monarchy. In principle, the Communist Party of the Soviet Union has never been a party as such, but a vertical executive authority. After the abolition of the 6th article of the constitution, when Russia began to assume autonomy, the president was called upon to exercise this "vertical" authority.

"But today, when the president's rights were curtailed, turning him into a sort of British queen, Russia has no vertical executive government," Poltoranin stressed. He is convinced that the "congress, as an instrument of power, is unable to save Russia from dismemberment, because it represents a mechanical sum total of local interests." The election of deputies, carried out not on a political, but territorial principle, has inevitably brought about a situation when the lawmakers "are lobbying for their respective regions, are compelled to uphold the interests of their constituencies and to draw some of the political power from the centre to the regions."

Thereby, Poltoranin believes, the balance of power is being tilted in favour of local interests, in favour of "local principalities", and anybody heading the parliament or the congress is bound to become a hostage of local interests, is bound to be subjected to pressure and faced with demands to share his political power. If the executive branch of government is not consolidated, Russia will inevitably disintegrate.

"The logics of current developments clearly shows that the trunk of government cannot be hollow," Poltoranin stated, "but attempts by some representatives of the Russian Supreme Soviet to 'push aside' the president and to set up their own 'executive structure' will inevitably lead to the domination of this or that mechanical sum total of local interests, will be fraught with the most dangerous consequences, up to and including a civil war."

"Many people realise this," Poltoranin said, "but, nevertheless, place their personal interest above the interests of Russia, regarding the referendum as a real threat to their powers. In the meantime, it is the duty of any citizen or politician to rise above their goals and interests, to go to the referendum."

It is the personal view of the federal centre's head that the upcoming referendum is "a usual, ordinary affair, a historical event, through which many states have already lived". The most important thing is not to use this referendum for fanning up conflicts.

Parties Call For 'Pre-Term Elections'

LD1902120293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1151 GMT 19 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Velichko]

[Text] Moscow February 19 TASS—A number of Russian leftist and centrist parties called for pre-term elections of the parliament and the president to stop the current political crisis in the country.

The opinion was voiced at a round-table discussion on Friday which united leader of the restored Russian Communist Arty Gennadiy Zyuganov, leader of the Union for Revival of Russia Dmitriy Rogozin, member of the "Civic Union" political committee Petr Fedosov, chairman of the Russian National Assembly Aleksandr Sterligov, co-chair of the Republican Party Vyacheslav Shostakovskiy. The discussion was attended by presidential adviser Andrey Fedorov.

Although the participants were unanimous that the political crisis is deepening in Russia, they failed to agree on its reasons.

They were united in the necessity to convene a Congress of People's Deputies, the supreme legislature, which has the right to adopt a new constitution and were sceptical about the idea of electing a constitutional assembly for the purpose.

They also agreed that the planned referendum is being used by both branches of power to distract the public from existing problems, but pledged to participate in it if the referendum is held.

National Salvation Front Supports Referendum

PM1802144593 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 Feb 93 First Edition p 2

[Aleksey Vorobyev article under the "Referendum" rubric: "Cherished Dream of a Radical"]

[Text] "The National Salvation Front [NSF] Political Council categorically and unambiguously supports the holding of the referendum," NSF Cochairman Ilya Konstantinov stated at a meeting with journalists at the Russian Parliamentary Center. The audience, it seemed, had reason to be astonished: This decision by the leaders of the intransigent opposition places the NSF in the same ranks as ardent supporters of the nationwide vote like the radicals from "Democratic Russia" and "Democratic Choice."

So is this the triumph of the rule that opposites attract? Or does the Russian president have a resolute new ally in the representatives of the NSF?

But there was no surprise in the hall, and the calm reaction of the audience confirmed in a strange way that the NSF has adopted a natural, and in its own way valid, stance. Even I. Konstantinov's subsequent comments did not seem unduly necessary here: "We want the president himself to completely freely formulate the questions for the referendum and the people to freely express their attitude on them. After that, the president's only task will be to resign."

A distinguishing feature of all the radicals is their absolute confidence that their cause is just and that victory will be theirs. During the Seventh Congress of People's Deputies Lev Ponomarev was asked whether he was afraid that the referendum would bring the Democrats' defeat. One of the "Democratic Russia" leaders replied that, since the sociological polls put the president's popularity rating far above that of the deputies' corps, the Russian people's choice is virtually predetermined. The democratic leaders still have not abandoned those ideas, it seems.

You may object that in a heated atmosphere, rife with conflicting interests, sociological polls are an extremely unreliable instrument for ascertaining the people's opinion. And the methodology of those polls varies, to put it mildly. Ask the participants in a poll to choose today between former Premiers Ryzhkov and Pavlov, and around 70 percent of Russians will vote for one of them. Then the committed sociologist can, with an easy conscience, draw the conclusion that even now one of these "yesterday's men" enjoys the support of more than one-third of the country's population.

Mindful of the traditional Russian reliance on the wise and strong paternal tsar, it is not hard to see that the participants in those tests of popularity ratings in which the president figures invariably come out in his favor. This is a preference not for a specific individual or a policy pursued by him but for the post, for the chair he occupies. Only something extraordinary can break this Russian mentality.

That is why we would venture to claim that the publication and use of such sociological computations are either deliberate political speculation or an unnoticed but very dangerous, not to say tragic, delusion.

The NSF people's belief that they will succeed is supported by other observations. You only have to go out onto the street today, travel in city transport, or stand in the waiting lines outside the stores to hear a host of curses aimed at the leading politicians and their course of reforms. Kind words are so rare, and the people who

express them are so securely separated from the people behind the windows of their Mercedes cars, armored office doors, and television screens, that support from this side will not help the president much in a nationwide vote.

There are other, more accurate indicators of public opinion. For example, there has been a perceptible rise in the popularity of so-called opposition newspapers, which are snapped up from the street vendors. The polemic between newspapers has died down. It is becoming increasingly hard for the Democrats to respond publicly to their opponents' attacks and increasingly difficult to find arguments in their favor.

The election of the new mayor of Moscow, planned for 28 February, could be a decisive "popularity rating test" on the eve of the referendum. It is very characteristic that it is the figures from the democratic movement who are again using all legal means to obstruct the elections. It is obvious that they are no longer pinning their hopes on the popularity of their leaders or their ideas. This situation shows, incidentally, that the Democrats are not interested in the people's opinion of the institutions of power in general but merely of those representatives of power whom the Democrats themselves dislike.

The most noticeable and alarming symptom of the change in the mood of Russia's citizens is the revival of the communist movement. The Communist Party's "restoration-unification" congress was quite lively, party cells at local level are clearly becoming active, and veterans are again bringing their party cards out of their hiding places. Given the relatively modest mass basis of the majority of Russia's parties and movements, if only one former Communist out of 20 were to return to the red banners, this could make this new formation highly influential.

Let us be honest with ourselves: Would this really have been possible straight after August 1991? Or even at the beginning of 1992? The revival of the Communists is the lamentable result of the activity of those who still call themselves Democrats because it is the inept leadership of the country which gave the new bolsheviks such trump cards as the economic and political chaos, the impoverishment of the population, and the orgy of crime.

At that same meeting with journalists at the Parliamentary Center, Svetlana Goryacheva said:

"Back at the Fifth Congress we warned Yeltsin about where the rash policy of liberalization could lead. But our leaders are not accustomed to listening to the opposition. As a result we had far more supporters at the Seventh Congress..."

The NSF leaders certainly do not identify with the Communists on all matters. But in a resolute political battle they will surely ally with them. Such a bloc could seriously influence the outcome of any nationwide vote. It is not too late for the politicians who still dream of resolving all their problems by referendums and constituent assemblies to ponder that.

It seems that this is precisely that rare occasion when dreaming too much is harmful.

Officer Reports on Assassination Attempts Against Leaders

LD1902053593 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0400 GMT 19 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow, 19 Feb—Lieutenant General Mikhail Barsukov, head of the Central Guard Administration of the Russian Federation, stated in an interview with NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA published today that the staff of the guard administration have managed to prevent six assassination attempts on the leadership of Russia. "Both of the unsuccessful attempts on the president by Ivan Kislov, who was recently arrested, were not the first in a chain of similar incidents," he asserts.

Barsukov recounted an "extremely simple" case that took place in Yekaterinburg, where the plotter—who had earlier intended to "punish" the president for the crisis state in the country—was detained at the town's station.

As stated by the general, "the recent official visit by the president of Russia to India, as became clear, also attracted the attention of Tamil separatists. Those who were charged with eliminating our president underwent special training and gained military experience in Lebanon."

"The possible assassination attempt was prevented by the forces of the Indian special services in cooperation with Russian officers of the Central Guard Administration, including the "Alfa" anti- terrorist group that forms part of it," Barsukov said.

The general reported that information on planned assassination attempts on the leaders of the state or on attempts being planned is coming in almost every day. They are not only plans against the president. Primitive terrorists have already tried to find ways to approach Vice Prime Ministers Georgiy Khizha and Sergey Shakhray. The threat of an attack on Defense Minister Pavel Grachev has also been made.

New Deputy Foreign Economic Relations Minister Profiled

MK1802120093 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 18 Feb 93 p 10

[Svetlana Sukhova report: "Appointment in the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations. New Deputy Minister Will Be Drawing Up Regulations"]

[Text] Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin signed an edict on February 17 appointing Yuriy Petrov as the new deputy foreign economic relations minister. Before this,

Petrov was in charge of the ministry's Main Economic Department. While the new deputy minister's duties have not yet been defined, it is believed in the ministry that his new job will most likely involve the drafting of regulatory documents.

Yuriy Petrov, 35, was born in Ufa. After graduating from the economics department of Novosibirsk State University in 1980, he completed a post-graduate course. He has an excellent command of English. On leaving university, he worked in scientific institutions in Siberia. In 1989-1992, he was a sector chief at the Institute of Economy and Industrial Production Organization in the Siberian branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences. In 1992, he moved to Moscow and was made chief of the economics section of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Foreign Economic Relations Committee. He says he has not given up his research work, although his "job is concerned with practical matters."

After the Committee for Foreign Economic Relations was transformed into the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, Yuriy Petrov took charge of its Main Economic Department. In this post, Petrov dealt with key matters of the ministry's activity: tariff regulation, data processing, statistics, and economic analysis.

There was in fact not a single bill drafted by the ministry in which he did not have a hand. In particular, Petrov was one of the people who drafted the bill "On the stimulation of machine export," which was delivered at the latest ministry collegium meeting. At the ministry, Petrov made use of his analytical skills not only in drawing up program documents, but also in writing research articles. Some of them were co-authored with Sergey Glazyev, then deputy to Petr Aven, who is now the minister.

The new deputy minister has not taken up his duties yet: He is receiving congratulations at home, where he is on sick leave.

'People's Tribunal' To Judge Gorbachev's Presidency

LD1802120693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1135 GMT 18 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yuriy Vdovin]

[Text] Moscow February 18 TASS—A sentence will be meted out to ex-President of the USSR Mikhail Gorbachev on February 20. He is accused of "anti-popular, anti-constitutional activities and perpetrated lawlessness against the peoples of the USSR and the peoples of the socialist camp". The verdict will be passed by a "people's tribunal" which began its work here on Thursday.

According to its organisers, the decision to hold such hearings was adopted by a popular rally on October 24, 1992. The "people's tribunal" was formed on February 16, 1993. It is chaired by People's Deputy of the Former USSR Teimuraz Avaliani. The chief public prosecutor, acting "on behalf of the peoples of the USSR", is lawyer Viktor Ilyukhin. Also present in the court-room today were Gennadiy Zyuganov, a leader of the restored Russian Communist Party, and Saji Umalatova, a hard-line deputy of the former Soviet parliament.

As expected by the organisers of the hearings, the defendant did not appear in the court-room and did not delegate his representatives there. There was no lawyer to defend Gorbachev and the court asked if anybody present wished to discharge this function, because "even a criminal in our country has the right to be defended". To the surprise of the audience, two people volunteered to defend Gorbachev—lawyer and former prosecutor Maria Mironova and member of the Russian Liberation Movement Andrey Malikov.

After passions around the volunteers had subsided, the court went over to the discussion of the indictment, read out by Viktor Ilyukhin. He noted that "this trial will, undoubtedly, go down in the annals of history as a special event". Ilyukhin said that he was "advancing severe, but just charges against Gorbachev and his entourage, and I am sure that this will not be the last trial—the ex-president's associates, responsible for the collapse of the USSR, will be put in the dock after him".

ITAR-TASS was told by one of the organisers of the hearings that the meetings of the "people's tribunal" would last three days.

Charges of Bribery Against ITAR-TASS Director Denied

LD1902095393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0932 GMT 19 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow February 19 TASS—Mikhail Gurtovoy, the Russian premier's aide, has denied charges preferred against ITAR-TASS Director-General Vitaliy Ignatenko by ex-Chairman of the USSR KGB Vladimir Kryuchkov. Gurtovoy had held until recently the post of executive secretary of the government Anti-Corruption Commission.

His denial says:

"The Anti-Corruption Commission knew that the testimony of ex- Chairman of the USSR KGB Vladimir Kryuchkov contained claims that presidential press secretary Vitaliy Ignatenko had taken bribes for arranging interviews with ex-President of the USSR Mikhail Gorbachev. Kryuchkov recently wrote about this in the newspaper "SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA".

Since Ignatenko now heads an official information service, our commission could not overlook these charges. We spent several months inquiring about 50 foreign journalists, who had interviewed the ex-president at this or that time. Some were asked personally, whenever it was possible, and others by fax. Nobody had anything

blameworthy to say about the former press secretary. Nobody has said that there was any hint to remuneration. Most foreign correspondents were surprised by our questions. They described Ignatenko as a highly qualified journalist, who always understood what a reporter needed from the country's leader. They noted the express secretary's goodwill.

Of course, we also inquired the Russian Procurator's Office. But we got nothing from it, except what was said in Kryuchkov's report to Gorbachev. We also inquired the Russian Security Ministry for any possible documents confirming the aforegoing information, received, as Kryuchkov claims, by technical means. We got no information discrediting Ignatenko from there, too."

Yeltsin Allocates Funds to Federal Information Center

OW1702134193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1144 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A directive issued by Russian President Boris Yeltsin on Wednesday [17 February] allocated a first quarter payment of 30.2 million rubles from his reserve fund to the Federal Information Center of Russia.

The center, which was formed by a presidential decree of 25 December 1992, is a federal organ directly answerable to the head of state. A statement of Yeltsin's position emphasizes that the center was established "with the goal of providing the reforms with informational guarantees, raising the role of the press, information agencies, television, and radio in clarifying state policy." The yearly fund for paying the center's employees was established by another Yeltsin directive and comes to 48,528,000 rubles.

The head of the Federal Information Service, Mikhail Poltoranin (formerly a vice premier in the Gaydar government) told journalists on 18 January that the center would require some 40 million rubles in financing. The sum, which he said was "miserly," would be paid out of the presidential fund.

Military & Space Issues

Work of Government Communications Troops Described

PM1802145393 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 18 Feb 93 p 2

[Nikolay Poroskov "Photoreportage": "Government Communications Troop Subunits Work Under Sign of Cipher"]

[Text] Until recently, even in particularly ceremonial instances, the combat banner of this unit near Moscow would be paraded in front of the ranks beneath a cover, for reasons of secrecy. It was as though there was no such thing as the government communications troops. At best, officers would say: We serve in special communications. Today we can call the unit by its real name: the Central Separate Field Center of Government Communications Troops. The full title also features the honorific Berlinskiy (for involvement in the storming of the capital of the Third Reich) and Order of the Red Star (for Koenigsberg). Prague also featured in the unit's history; in May 1945 they provided communications for the Soviet command there.

The unit was created 13 December 1943 on the basis of the Red Army's communications subunits that had been transferred to the People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs. It was the latter that ensured the operation of all the main lines of government communications between the Supreme High Command Headquarters and the staffs of the fronts and armies. The first commanding officer (at that time, of a separate battalion) was Captain Viktor Monakhov, a knowledgeable, selfless man. Later, professionals and patriots constituted the unit's leadership. One of them was Major General Konstantin Gubenko, holder of two orders of the Red Banner and four of the Red Star.

The unit's paramount task now is to provide the country's top leadership and the military command with reliable and protected, i.e. secret, communications in the event of war. And, in peacetime, when emergency situations arise, when there is no possibility of communicating via the permanent government communications system. Officers also work in the "hot spots." On the day of our arrival at the center some of them were in Nazran [Ingushetia] with their equipment. The personnel rotate every two months.

As always away from the unit, they have to sleep at the stations or in tents and sleeping bags and prepare their own food; the work of radio relay subunits, for example, presupposes their autonomy and their isolation, even from neighbors. If communications are by cable, kindly guard every meter. Machines with classifying equipment, however, require special protection, though strictly speaking, it is virtually impossible to get through to the cipher; the equipment self-destructs if outside hands interfere.

Colonel Vladimir Karpov, the commanding officer, has a lot of cares. He enumerated them, starting with the rear services: It is necessary, above all, to feed a soldier, partly thanks to a plot attached to the kitchen. There is equipment here relating to all kinds of communications—space, radio relay, tropospheric, wire, etc.—and hundreds of motor vehicles. At the first order, subunits rush off to any point in the country, some making their way in convoys, others by air and rail, like rapid-response troops.

It is a staggering fact that there has not been a single communications breakdown or a single malfunction in the almost half-century of the unit's existence. Over the past few years alone approximately 20 people have been

awarded orders and medals: for assimilating new equipment and providing government communications in emergency situations. However, when I asked Col. Anatoliy Krayev, assistant commanding officer for work with personnel, to name surnames, he retorted: Officers still have to travel on assignments and mix with the local population, and a surname is a link to government communications, which is undesirable. So we still have nameless heroes modestly performing work of state importance.

General Eyes Army Manning, Mobilization Problems

PM1902102393 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 18 Feb 93 pp 1, 2

[Interview with Lieutenant General G.N. Bochayev, chief of a directorate of the Russian Federation Armed Forces General Staff Main Mobilization Organization Directorate, by Lieutenant Colonel Vladimir Panarin; place and date not given: "Mobilization Readiness of Russian Armed Forces. What Is It To Be Like?"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] The newspaper continues a discussion of the activity of the Russian Federation Armed Forces General Staff. The first article—"The General Staff Under New Conditions" (11 December 1992)—dealt mainly with structural changes and certain areas of its work. Today's conversation with Lieutenant General Gennadiy Bochayev, chief of a directorate of the Main Mobilization Organization Directorate, is devoted to some questions of the mobilization preparation of the Armed Forces, the creation of militarily trained reserves, and the organization of servicemen's courses.

[Panarin] Gennadiy Nikolayevich, it is known that the preparation of the Armed Forces to repulse possible aggression is made up of many elements—political, economic, and military proper. Speaking of the latter, I would like to learn how tasks of the mobilization preparation of the Armed Forces, the creation of the necessary mobilization resources, and the population's military instruction are tackled. What difficulties exist here? But, first, briefly about what this means—the Armed Forces' mobilization readiness. What goes to make it up?

[Bochayev] What should be understood by the Armed Forces' mobilization readiness is their state and their ability to make an organized transition from a peacetime footing to a war one so as to fulfill tasks of repulsing aggression and to defend the state's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Its constituent parts are: planning, the mobilization preparation of organs of management, troops, and naval forces, and the accumulation and preparation of militarily trained resources, military hardware, and other material means to ensure the Armed Forces' transfer to a war footing.

As regards difficulties, the first and most important of these is that the problem has not been settled legally.

[Panarin] And yet the Russian Federation Law "On Defense" exists and is functioning, and it quite clearly enshrines the powers and obligations, starting with the country's leadership and ending with the responsibilities of enterprises, establishments, organizations, and citizens in the sphere of defense.

[Bochayev] Yes, such a law really does exist, but the mechanism for implementing it has not, unfortunately, been fully worked out. The thing is that a number of existing legislative acts do not take into account the requirements of the law "On Defense." Thus, a number of ministries and departments, citing another Russian Federation law—"On Enterprises and Entrepreneurial Activity," which prohibits organs of state administration from interfering in enterprises' activities—refuse to fulfill their responsibilities in the sphere of defense. There are other legal acts which, once again, do not promote fulfillment of the demands set forth in the law "On Defense." This discrepancy, as you will understand, really hinders the resolution of defense tasks, because it creates a legal scissors, if I may put it like this. Therefore, in accordance with a government directive, the Ministry of Defense together with the Russian Federation Ministry of Justice has prepared proposals for amending existing legislative acts in connection with the adoption of the law "On Defense."

At the same time last December the president signed an edict on the resumption of courses for military reservists as of this year. Appropriate finances have also been allocated for implementing the measures—which is very important. For, unfortunately, over the past two years training course preparation has virtually folded in our country. Military registration organs have fallen apart in the economy's new structures, and questions of funding training course measures and of remunerating military reservists for attending courses out of all sorts of commercial structures have, once again, not been resolved. Hence the decline in military training and course discipline and the poor performance in the provinces.

[Panarin] How have the Ministry of Defense and your main directorate itself reacted to this situation?

[Bochayev] In connection with this state of affairs we have three times submitted our proposals to the government. We were twice refused. The third time there was the president's edict, which I have already mentioned. We have also sent corresponding directives to the provinces.

What will training courses give us? Above all, the drop in the quality of manning of the troops (forces) will end. We are currently experiencing certain difficulties over the quality manning of the troops for a special period. This year, therefore, we are organizing training courses, above all, to prepare the scarce specialists who are needed by the troops and naval forces.

Here it is very important to adopt in the long term another basic document—the law "On Mobilization

Preparation and Mobilization in the Russian Federation," which would comprehensively reflect the legal bases for resolving all these tasks. This law is currently being worked out.

[Panarin] What comment can you make on the state of mobilization preparation in the Armed Forces today?

[Bochayev] The chief question here is one of manning. Unfortunately, even now it is not being resolved the way I would like. It has to be said that the reasons for this are, above all, objective: the breakup of the former Union, the changed geopolitical situation, the disruption of the polished system of drafting into service and, on the whole, of organizing the preparation of military training resources, the fulfillment of international accords on reducing the strength of the Armed Forces, and so on.

The long-standing campaign of slander and groundless criticism of the Armed Forces, which was begun by certain mass media when the Soviet Army still existed and, out of inertia, has been transferred to the Russian Army, has also had an adverse effect. It has created in society, and among young people in particular, an attitude toward military labor as something unnecessary and lacking in prestige. In addition, the system of military patriotic education has fallen apart. Pacifist sentiments have appeared in a large section of young people. The law has come to be ignored everywhere.

Last fall's draft serves to illustrate the state of affairs that has taken shape. It was very complex. Even under conditions of an acute shortage of draft resources only approximately 20-22 people were drafted out of every 100. Therefore, even with the Armed Forces being reduced, it is possible to meet only approximately 20 percent of the necessary requirement of the army and of the border and internal troops.

A critical situation with regard to manning has taken shape in the Ground Forces—the largest branch of the Armed Forces—and in air defense units and combined units, which, as is known, constantly have to resolve combat tasks. Unfortunately, the tendency for the level of manning of the troops (forces) with personnel to fall has persisted until recently. There are also considerable difficulties over the voluntary recruitment of citizens for military service.

[Panarin] You said "there are." What form does this take?

[Bochayev] Maybe KRASNAYA ZVEZDA's readers know that the question of voluntary manning of the Armed Forces with servicemen, in other words under contract, did not arise today but considerably earlier, when the Union Army still existed. As you will recall, at one time an attempt was even made to conduct an experiment in the Navy aimed at verifying the viability of contract service precisely under our conditions. Manning of the Russian Army according to the mixed principle has now been shifted to the practical plane, as it were.

Thus, the Russian Federation Government's Decree No. 918 of 30 November 1992 provides for the transition to phased voluntary manning of the Armed Forces to be made this year. On the basis of this directive the minister of defense issued an order stipulating all the terms of service under contract. I believe the newspaper wrote about them in detail last December. The only addition that I would like to make to the existing information is that this year servicemen and citizens will be accepted for voluntary military service—under contract—strictly in units defined by the minister of defense and for posts laid down by the General Staff. The posts of commanding officers of squads and teams will be filled first of all, as well as posts that determine the combat readiness of units and combined units among combat troops and in combat support units.

We are, however, far from nurturing illusions that servicemen recruited into the Army under contract will be able to solve the manning question. The lack of a proper social base, including a financial base, and of other guarantees of a life that is well provided for could have, and are already having, an adverse effect on the desire of young people to serve voluntarily. Thus, given a recruitment plan of 100,000 men for this year, to date we have just approximately 13,500.

[Panarin] Gennadiy Nikolayevich, let us return to other questions of the troops' mobilization preparation...

[Bochayev] The state of affairs here is today starting to improve gradually. The Ministry of Defense has already drawn up basic documents on combat and mobilization readiness. What is, in my view, a substantiated decision has been adopted to restore and, where necessary, create the mobilization deployment base. Here special attention will be paid to material and technical supplies. Moreover, mobilization planning documents are being reworked today with due regard for the reduction and reshaping of the Armed Forces.

As you see, we are tackling mobilization planning.

[Panarin] But these are the work prospects, as it were. And yet the Russian Armed Forces have now been in existence almost nine months, and I would like to hope that, despite the "gaps" that exist in legislation and the lack of organizational coordination, nonetheless some steps are being taken to improve mobilization preparation. For we are talking of the state's security...

[Bochayev] Of course. A system of preparation of organs of management, troops (forces), and military commissariats has existed and does exist in our country. It is, unfortunately, true that under conditions of the present political and economic instability, the reshaping of the Armed Forces, and the withdrawal of troops from nearby and distant foreign parts, preparation has been somewhat diluted and constricted. At the same time people in the provinces are being granted more creative freedom and the opportunity to show initiative. In the future we

will make some corrections to the organization of mobilization preparation, imparting a more centralized nature to it.

Now for questions of planning. As already stated, the whole set of mobilization planning documents is being reworked in connection with the creation of the Armed Forces, and at the same time the existing decisions are being amended and elaborated more exactly with due regard for the current reduction and reshaping of the Armed Forces. That is, in parallel with the drafting of new documents, we are not forgetting about amending the existing ones.

[Panarin] How do things stand with the technical aspect of mobilization preparation?

[Bochayev] The state of the mobilization readiness of motor transport is a cause of special concern. In terms of numbers the motor vehicle pool of the national economy as a whole is capable of satisfying the Armed Forces' mobilization requirements. But the kinds and makes of vehicles do not make it possible to realize this potential in full. In particular, there is a shortage of trailers and trucks.

The technical readiness of the motor vehicle enterprises which supply equipment for the Army has also fallen over the past two or three years. The considerable increase in the prices of rolling stock prevents enterprises from acquiring the necessary number of motor vehicles. As a result of this, the motor vehicle pool quickly grows old and frequently does not meet the demands that are made on the vehicles' technical readiness. This means that mobilization targets simply are not and cannot be fulfilled.

[Panarin] Does the government know about this situation?

[Bochayev] Yes, it does, and it shows understanding of the problems of the Armed Forces' mobilization preparation. This, I believe, is the most important thing.

[Panarin] Gennadiy Nikolayevich, what can you say about other measures of mobilization preparation?

[Bochayev] Provision has been made for them this year too. Above all, there are a number of research and command-staff exercises on very diverse topics, methods training courses with leading personnel of military commissariats, checks on the state of the mobilization readiness of units and combined units, and the giving of practical assistance in improving it.

Three 'Kosmos' Satellites Launched From Baykonur 17 Feb

LD1902125093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1244 GMT 19 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow February 19 TASS—On February 17 three artificial satellites, "Kosmos-2234", "Kosmos-2235" and "Kosmos- 2236", were blasted off by a "Proton" rocket-booster from Baykonur launch pad. The satellites are to form part of the "Glonass" global space navigation system designed to locate civil planes, sea ships and fishing boats.

The satellites has been put onto an orbit close to circular with the following parameters:

—initial period of revolution—11 hours 15 minutes;

—distance from the Earth—19.129 kilometers;

—orbit inclination—64.9 degrees.

The equipment installed at the satellites is working properly.

The coordinating computer centre is processing the incoming information.

Supreme Soviet

Parliament Backs Government Call for Sanctions on Croatia

LD1802164793 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1505 GMT 18 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Mariya Kuzmenkova]

[Text] Moscow, 18 Feb—"The Supreme Soviet regards as expedient the Russian Federation Government's proposal submitted to the UN Security Council regarding the introduction of sanctions against Croatia, and the relaxation of sanctions against the Socialist Republic of Yugoslavia, with a view to their subsequently being lifted." This was stated in an appeal adopted today at a joint sitting of the chambers. The Russian parliament is addressing this appeal to the parliaments of the republics on the territory of the former Yugoslavia and to the world community.

Having stated that the measures adopted to settle the conflict have proved ineffective, which to a large extent stems from the "one-sided and unobjective assessment of events in Yugoslavia on the part of a number of countries," the Russian Supreme Soviet calls on the world community to refrain from delivering arms to the conflict zone and from military interference.

The appeal stresses that the Russian corps of deputies calls on the three sides involved in the Bosnian crisis to begin talks, having completely halted their military activities.

Wants UNSC To Consider Sanctions

OW1802212793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1953 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In its resolution adopted on Thursday [18 February] the Russian Supreme Soviet has suggested that Russia raise in the UN Security Council the issue of imposing sanctions on Croatia. If these sanctions are not imposed, the Russian Government is advised to ask for lifting the embargo on shipments to Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro).

The Government is also told to report to the Parliament before March 1 on implementation of Clause 2 of its resolution On the Russian Position on the Yugoslav Conflict of December 17, 1992, which also called for resumption of humanitarian aid to Yugoslavia.

The MPs also adopted an address to the parliaments of the republics that had emerged in what used to be Yugoslavia and to the world community. A single major amendment was made in the draft which was discussed last Friday. Where the Government was asked to raise the issue of "alleviating" the sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro in the Security Council, the document now mentions "subsequent lifting" of the sanctions.

Yeltsin Version of Constitutional Agreement Published

PM1802211793 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 19 Feb 93 p 1

[Text of "Draft Agreement by the Federal Organs of the Russian Federation Legislative and Executive Branches on Stabilizing the Constitutional System Pending the Adoption of a New Russian Federation Constitution" under general heading: "The President's Draft Constitutional Agreement Sent to Parliament"; first three paragraphs are editorial introduction]

[Text] Russian Federation Boris Yeltsin on Wednesday [17 February] sent to parliament a draft agreement of the federal bodies of executive and legislative power for stabilizing the constitutional system pending the adoption of a new Russian Federation Constitution. This was done in accordance with the agreement reached 16 February between B. Yeltsin and Supreme Soviet Chairman R. Khasbulatov.

The president also received proposals of the Working Group of the Constitutional Commission and of the chairman of the Supreme Soviet parliamentary Committee on Legislation, Mikhail Mityukov. These proposals are the draft Constitutional Agreement from the Supreme Soviet leadership.

In accordance with the agreement reached, a Working Group for the Preparation of the Agreement has been formed. Hereunder we publish the president's draft Constitutional Agreement.

Draft Agreement by the Federal Organs of the Russian Federation Legislative and Executive Branches on Stabilizing the Constitutional System Pending the Adoption of a New Russian Federation Constitution

The Russian Federation president in his capacity as head of state and highest official in the Russian Federation and

The Russian Federation Supreme Soviet in its capacity as the permanently operating organ of the Russian Federation Congress of People's Deputies,

for the purpose of creating the necessary conditions for the political stabilization of society and of extricating the country from the economic crisis,

on the basis of the principles of democracy, federalism, a republican form of rule, and the separation of powers—the unshakable foundations of the constitutional system—and guided by the decree of the Russian Federation Congress of People's Deputies dated 12 December 1992 "On Stabilizing the Constitutional System of the Russian Federation,"

pending the entry into force of a new Russian Federation Constitution, undertake the following commitments.

I. The Russian Federation President Guarantees To Strictly Observe the Following Commitments:

1.1 Not to interfere in the prerogatives of the legislative branch, to ensure compliance with the constitutional principle of the separation of powers by all organs of the executive branch;

1.2 Not to exercise the right of legislative initiative to submit draft laws that upset the balance between the branches;

1.3 To ensure that the edicts and directives of the president and the decrees and directives of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government conform strictly with the Constitution and laws of the Russian Federation.

1.4 To promptly inform the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet of measures to ensure the state and public security of the Russian Federation;

1.5 To create conditions for the effective work of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government; to ensure priority of action in relation to economic drafts and their immediate submission as legislative initiatives; all draft edicts, and also draft laws, relating to budget expenditure must be agreed with the government;

1.6 To formulate a program of measures to implement the Federation Treaty jointly with the components of the Russian Federation;

1.7 To ensure the defense of the territorial integrity of the Russian Federation and its components by using all necessary measures stipulated by the Constitution and laws of the Russian Federation;

1.8 To take measures to support and strengthen integrationist processes within the framework of the Commonwealth of Independent States;

1.9 To Ensure the protection of Russians [rossiyanin] outside the borders of the Russian Federation, and to take measures to settle conflicts that threaten the lives and security of Russians.

II. The Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Guarantees To Strictly Observe the Following Commitments:

2.1 Not to interfere in the prerogatives of the executive branch, to ensure compliance with the constitutional principle of the separation of powers by all organs and structures of the representative branch;

guided by the principle of the separation of powers enshrined in Articles 1 and 3 of the Russian Federation Constitution, not to exercise Part 2 of Article 104 and Point 26 of Article 109 of the Russian Federation Constitution from the moment this agreement is signed;

2.2 To discontinue actions designed to obstruct organs of the executive branch from exercising their powers;

2.3 Not to adopt legislative acts and amendments to acts which upset the balance between the branches established by this agreement; to incorporate into existing legislation amendments necessary to ensure the maintenance of this balance and compliance with the constitutional principle of the separation of powers;

2.4 To ensure the timely formulation of a legislative base for protecting the rights and freedoms of the person and the citizen, and the rights of national minorities. To examine within a month as a matter of paramount importance legislative initiatives designed to guarantee the economic reform;

2.5 To create a legislative base for realizing the Federation Treaty as a component of the Russian Federation Constitution;

2.6 To take all necessary legislative measures to defend the territorial integrity of the Russian Federation and its components, to halt armed conflicts and attempts to resolve national and territorial disputes by force, and also attempts to forcibly remove constitutional organs of power;

2.7 To coordinate activity with the Russian Federation president and the Russian Federation Government within the framework of the Interparliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

III. The Russian Federation President and the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, on the Basis of the Commitments They Have Assumed, Have Agreed That:

3.1 The administration of federal property is to be implemented by the Russian Federation Government. Departments and structures under the jurisdiction of the Supreme Soviet that have executive and administrative functions are to be abolished, or handed over to the system of the executive branch, or transferred to the jurisdiction of the Russian Federation Government. Specifically, the Russian Federal Property Fund is to be abolished. Federal extrabudgetary funds are to be transferred to the system of the executive branch. The Central Bank of Russia, the Bank for Foreign Economic Activity and the Foreign Trade Bank of Russia, the Russian State Committee for Statistics, and the Russian Federation Pension Fund are to be transferred to the jurisdiction of the Russian Federation Government while remaining accountable to the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet. The heads of the said departments will join the Russian Federation Government.

3.2 The adoption of credit emissions decisions is to be handled by the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet only in coordination with the Russian Federation Government on a parity basis.

3.3 Citizens are to be guaranteed the right to local self-government which is to be provided with material and financial resources and protected from arbitrary interference by the state and its organs and officials.

IV. The Russian Federation President and the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, Recognizing the Pressing Need To Implement Democratic Constitutional Reform in the Russian Federation, Have Agreed That:

4.1 They will refrain from legislative initiatives on changing and supplementing the Russian Federation Constitution (Basic Law), and also initiatives that would enable the existing corpus of Russian Federation people's deputies to adopt a new Russian Federation Constitution;

4.2 A Constitutional Assembly will be elected (formed) to adopt a new Russian Federation Constitution (Basic Law).

V. Guarantees of the Agreement:

5.1 In the event of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court finding that the Russian Federation president has not implemented this agreement, the resignation of the Russian Federation president will ensue, adopted by the Russian Federation of People's Deputies;

5.2 In the event of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court finding that the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet has not implemented this agreement, the Russian Federation president may dissolve the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet and discontinue the powers of officials of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet elected by the Russian Federation Congress of People's Deputies.

The procedure for electing a new Russian Federation Congress of People's Deputies, as well as the timing of elections, will in this case be established by the Russian Federation president.

Russian Federation President
Russian Federation Supreme Soviet

Parliamentary Opposition to Proposal

OW1802181993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1746 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "A new phase in constitutional ventures," was how People's Deputy Vladimir Isakov termed the president's draft of the constitutional agreement distributed in parliament Thursday. He announced this at a session of the coordinating council of the Russian Unity parliamentary bloc. Mikhail Astafyev, another Russian Unity member, said the opposition doesn't think that the country is undergoing a constitutional crisis, but instead feels the problem is an entirely different matter: the president does not want to adhere to the constitution.

The president's version of the constitutional agreement is impossible to consider seriously, said Astafyev. He claimed the document proposes that the Congress voluntarily abolish what's left of the constitution.

He thinks the limitation of the Congress' powers, which the president's draft stipulates, proves that Yeltsin and his circle are trying to establish a single power regime.

Astafyev claimed that if the agreement is signed, deputies should strip themselves of their power out of moral considerations. He said the initiatives advanced for the referendum and the agreement between the branches of power were attempts by Yeltsin, Parliamentary Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov, and Constitutional Court Chairman Valeriy Zorkin "to put up a bold front." Astafyev believes these "political bankrupts" have no choice but to resign.

Russian Unity plans to appeal to the Constitutional Court with a petition to examine the trilateral agreement closed on December 12, 1992, by Yeltsin, Khasbulatov, and Zorkin, from a constitutional viewpoint. Russian Unity considers that agreement unconstitutional. Astafyev said he hoped that the Constitutional Court would defend the constitution and "not get involved in a questionable political maneuver." Deputy Ilya Konstantinov said that the opposition had received evidence on the preparations in presidential circles "of a secret form of constitutional coup." The proposed draft of the constitutional agreement is only one of the elements of this plan, he believes.

Khasbulatov Justifies Second Voting Paper in Referendum

MK1702083193 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 Feb 93 p 1

[Yevgeniy Krasnikov report on 16 February interview with Supreme Soviet Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov in Moscow: "Ruslan Khasbulatov: Two Voting Papers Will Save Both the President and the Referendum. The Speaker of Parliament Gave an Interview to NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA One and a Half Hours Before the Start of His Talks With the President"]

[Text] Yesterday evening Ruslan Khasbulatov put a new proposal to Boris Yeltsin in connection with the upcoming constitutional referendum in April. Just before the "summit" meeting, the chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet told NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA's correspondent that he intended to propose to the president that there should be two voting papers at the referendum.

The first should consist of seven or eight questions and contain the basic provision of the new constitution.

"These questions might appear boring to our fellow citizens. And indeed they are boring," Ruslan Khasbulatov honestly admitted to your correspondent, "and incidentally, neither the Constitutional Commission nor its chairman Oleg Rumyantsev is to blame for this. You see, we ourselves fell into a trap when we decided at the Congress to submit constitutional principles in a very general form to a referendum."

In Khasbulatov's view it is the second voting paper which should get Russian citizens to turn out for the referendum. It is proposed that it will include the following five questions: Do you have confidence in the president, the Congress, the Supreme Soviet, and the federal government, and do you agree that simultaneous elections for both president and people's deputies should be held no later than the spring of 1994.

All the indications are that this initiative on the part of the speaker of the Russian parliament is fully in keeping with the sentiments of many of the country's political parties and movements. It is extremely typical that just before Khasbulatov made this statement similar proposals had been made by the Moscow branch of Civic Union, headed by Moscow City Soviet Chairman Nikolay Gonchar.

The Moscow Civic Union leadership statement proposes that three questions be put at the referendum: Do you have confidence in the president, do you have confidence in the Congress and the Supreme Soviet, do you consider necessary early general elections in the spring of 1994?

Thus, Ruslan Khasbulatov can count on the support of the Russian centrists in defending his current position that Russian citizens should not choose which of the authorities is best, but should pronounce their verdict of confidence or no confidence in each of the authorities individually.

"Incidentally," as Ruslan Khasbulatov noted in his conversation with NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA's correspondent, "although all these ideas are in the air, the idea of a second voting paper is mine."

In Khasbulatov's words, at the Supreme Soviet Presidium session where he proposed the wording for the second voting paper, some Presidium members reminded the parliamentary speaker that the Congress

had previously decided against submitting to the referendum any questions other than constitutional provisions.

"However, we are in an impasse. Stretching a point, you might say that the second voting paper is a development of the first; furthermore I believe that a certain amount of political courage must be displayed. The Supreme Soviet and I myself must assume all the responsibility here," Khasbulatov said.

In Khasbulatov's view, it cannot be ruled out that the question of the referendum will be discussed beforehand at a Congress of Russian People's Deputies. But the duration of such a Congress should be restricted to one day, and the topic for discussion should be confined exclusively to the referendum.

"I do not think the Russian president should be afraid of new general elections," Ruslan Khasbulatov stated at the end of his conversation with NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA's correspondent. "I think he has a chance of winning them."

Supreme Soviet Discusses Khasbulatov-Yeltsin Talks

LD1802175893 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1200 GMT 18 Feb 93

[By Yevgeniy Fateyev; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Before the start of this morning's session of the Russian parliament, many deputies still nursed the hope that before leaving for Siberia Ruslan Khasbulatov would manage to share with them his impressions of his most recent meeting with President Yeltsin. People's Deputy Vladimir Kuznetsov even suggested including on the agenda a report from the Supreme Soviet leadership on activities to stabilize the constitutional structure. In doing so, he described constitutional agreement between the president and parliament as an unacceptable substitute for the Constitution. However, Deputy Speaker Nikolay Ryabov, chairing the session, announced that the head of parliament had already left for Novosibirsk. From there he will immediately make an official visit to Finland. Thus the members of the Supreme Soviet will not be able to hear what he has to say before next Thursday [25 February] at least. Nikolay Ryabov expressed his readiness to address the session, today if necessary, on work on the main provisions of a new Russian Constitution, which it is planned to put to a universal referendum. He also reported that late yesterday evening parliament had received the draft constitutional agreement drawn up by the presidential side.

Generally, parliament was very fruitful this morning. A long-awaited bill on Moscow, the capital of the Russian Federation, was adopted in its second reading. This could, in the deputies' opinion, facilitate an end to the conflict between the Moscow City Soviet and the mayor's office. The hope was expressed that it might be possible to definitively adopt the bill in a month's time.

Khasbulatov Arrives on Visit in Novosibirsk

LD1802212393 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 18 Feb 93

[By correspondent Samoletov; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Samoletov] Lomonosov, General De Gaulle, and Russian President Yeltsin have already discovered Siberia for themselves. Today, Chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet Ruslan Khasbulatov has also appeared in Novosibirsk. The principal aim of the visit is to take part in the conference of heads of the state, representative, and executive bodies of power of the republics, krays, and oblasts within the Russian Federation. In the course of the seminar questions of the forthcoming referendum will also be discussed with the oblast's administration.

[Begin Khasbulatov recording] Our seminar's agenda will include discussion of this very important problem. So, we shall confer among ourselves and discuss the matter, of course. [end recording]

[Samoletov] Apart from this, Ruslan Khasbulatov is planning to meet heads of departments and leading scientists of the Novosibirsk Academy of Science, workers of some enterprises, and the city's public figures. The visit is scheduled to end on Saturday. [Video shows Khasbulatov being met at Novosibirsk airport and talking to journalists.]

Agenda Outlined

OW1802223693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1957 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Thursday [18 February] the chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet, Ruslan Khasbultov, arrived to Novosibirsk where he intends to stay for two days. On February 19 the parliament's speaker is scheduled to participate in an All-Russian conference of the leaders of legislative and executive powers of republics, territories, and provinces within the Russian Federation. The conference is, in particular, to discuss the problems related to implementation of the Federative treaty and formation of the Russian budget.

On Saturday Khasbulatov will visit the Siberian scientific center and the Novosibirsk academic town and will conduct a meeting with the scientists.

Says 'No Need' for Referendum Yet

LD1902093993 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0800 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Text] RIA reports that Russian Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov spoke in Novosibirsk

today against holding a referendum or elections this year. At a meeting with the leaders of the representative and executive authorities of the federation members, he also said that at one time we had extended the sphere of the president's authority out of all proportion.

In Khasbulatov's opinion, there is no need for elections or a referendum this year. Every effort should be channelled into putting right the strategic errors of 1992 and solving economic problems. He said that the decision to hold a referendum was, at the time it was taken, a factor in stabilizing the constitutional structure, but events have developed in such a way as to cast doubt upon the expediency of going ahead with this move. Describing the situation in the country, the Supreme Soviet chairman noted that leaders who made their names by criticizing the totalitarian system have paled. There is nothing left to destroy; what is needed now is people able to build. The new constitution should, Khasbulatov said, provide for the existence only of a two-chamber parliament comprising 500 to 600 deputies. He criticized the authors of the country's budget for this year, describing the first version as absurd. The Supreme Soviet chairman also noted the need to transfer the center of gravity of the reforms to the regions.

Criticizes Yeltsin Proposal

LD1902094893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0935 GMT 19 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Viktor Elmakov and Sergey Podyampolskiy]

[Text] Novosibirsk February 19 TASS—Russian Parliament Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov is critical about the idea of the president to reach a share-power constitutional agreement to stop the current political crisis in the country. "One should not expect a salvation messianic role from the idea of the constitutional agreement", he told lawmakers of the Novosibirsk region on Friday [19 February].

In a televised address on Thursday Boris Yeltsin proposed that he and the parliament agree to freeze the existing share-power situation in Russia until a Constitutional Assembly adopts a new basic law. If no agreement is reached, the referendum on a new constitution should be held as scheduled in April.

But Khasbulatov said he is quite cool about the idea of the constitutional agreement and described it as "mediocre".

Still he agreed to continue talks with the president saying that "certain negotiations to improve acting constitution are fruitful, but we should not allow ourselves to be distracted from burning issues". He added that it is most important today to solve economic problems.

Outlines Plan for Political Reform

OW1902104893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1033 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Parliament's Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov has declared that the Congress of People's Deputies, as the country's legislature, should schedule simultaneous early elections for president and parliament for the spring of 1994.

Addressing an all-Russian conference of leaders of the representative and legislative bodies of power in Novosibirsk, Mr. Khasbulatov put forward a number of proposals, which, in his words, could pave the way for a constitutional agreement, "if it's reached at all." In his opinion, the congress should adopt a number of amendments to the constitution and ask the Supreme Soviet to pass some laws, including one on elections.

The constitutional amendments should provide for doing away with two-level representative power and elect a Supreme Soviet of two houses, having a total of 500-600 members.

Khasbulatov wished that one of the amendments would entitle the president, as head of state, to submit his candidate for prime minister for parliamentary approval. After confirmation, the prime minister could form a cabinet on his own, which would then be confirmed by parliament.

On a constitutional level, he proposed stipulating by law the exclusive subordination of a government to the Supreme Soviet. Khasbulatov emphasized that if his proposals were accepted, the principle of the division of power would be implemented and "the duality of the current executive branch" would disappear. The speaker noted that "no body in the country was higher than the congress, to which the president, Supreme Soviet, and government were subordinate." In his view, "last year saw the appearance on the political scene of new political leaders and the simultaneous decline of former ones, who made a name for themselves by criticizing everything and everyone under the slogans of destroying the totalitarian system." Mr. Khasbulatov stressed that "destroyers must go, creators are needed today." He declared that "two years of work on the draft of a new constitution shows that such a method as a one-time action of adopting the fundamental law is apparently improper for our society." Khasbulatov described as "absurd" the draft of a budget for 1993 submitted at the end of last year and voiced the supposition that parliament would not endorse it. He pointed out that the document lacked clarity on many points, especially concerning who concretely has the right to control national currency revenues. He accepted the need for privatization in principle and said that it was inadmissible to conduct it by ways that "break economic ties." He spoke

out in favor of dissolving the parliamentary privatization subcommittee and noted that it "did nothing but harm."

Says 'Cool' Toward Power-Sharing Idea

OW1902125593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1227 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "I have a fairly cool attitude towards the idea of a power sharing agreement," chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet Ruslan Khasbulatov said at a meeting with people's deputies in Novosibirsk. He branded the idea of the power sharing agreement as "banal," averring it would be pointless to expect that it could "play the role of some savior or a Messiah." "We should not be distracted from our burning issues nor carried away by initiatives as trivial as the draft of the power sharing agreement, for they only stir the public and provoke fruitless discussions," Khasbulatov said.

Khasbulatov Suggests Five More Referendum Questions

PM1802102393 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 Feb 93 First Edition p 1

[Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Press Center report: "Russian Supreme Soviet Presidium Session"]

[Text] A routine session of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Presidium was held in the House of Soviets 15 February under the chairmanship of R.I. Khasbulatov.

Opening the session, the Supreme Soviet chairman proposed discussing the situation which is taking shape on the threshold of the all-Russian referendum scheduled for 11 April 1993. He remarked that the lively debate over this central problem of our political life is being covered from very lightweight positions "for" or "against." But in reality, if even one oblast or republic does not participate in the vote, this will mean political, territorial, and national state disintegration. In order to avoid this, Khasbulatov suggested that the Presidium members discuss the proposal to put to the referendum another voting paper to include the ideas expounded by the president 10 December and propose that voters answer the following questions: Do you trust (1) the president of the Russian Federation; (2) the Congress of People's Deputies; (3) the Russian Supreme Soviet; (4) the Russian Federation Federal Government; (5) do you agree to the simultaneous holding of elections of the president and of federal deputies no later than the spring of 1994?

In accordance with parliamentary procedure, draft legislative acts were submitted at the session which are being sent for conclusion by the chambers' standing commissions, Supreme Soviet committees, and subjects of legislative initiative. They include:

—the draft laws "On Military Courts"; "On Social Protection for Citizens Affected by Radiation as a Consequence of the 1957 Accident at the 'Mayak' Production Association and by Discharges of Radioactive Waste into the Techa River"; "On Introducing Amendments and Additions to the Russian Federation Law 'On Operational and Investigative Activity in the Russian Federation' and to the RSFSR Criminal and Criminal Procedure Codes"; "On Auditing Activity in the Russian Federation" and "On Noncommercial Organizations";

—the draft Supreme Soviet decrees "On Ratifying the Convention on Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution"; "On Reorganizing Federal Organs of Management of Higher Education."

Only Quarter of Parliamentarians Support Yeltsin Policies

OW1702210893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1932 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At present only 25% of Russian parliamentarians support the president's reform policy, sociologist Aleksandr Sobyanin said at a meeting of the parliamentary reform coalition Wednesday [17 February], referring to results of a recent poll among deputies.

He said that during 2 and a half years since the election of the present parliament 188 Russian people's deputies shifted "from the democratic wing to the conservative one". Among them were head of the parliament Ruslan Khasbulatov, leader of the National Salvation Front Ilya Konstantinov, chairman of the Cadet Party and now one of the leaders of the parliamentary bloc "Russian Unity" Mikhail Astafyev.

Parliamentary Faction Debates Political Prospects

OW1702211493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1932 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Boris Yeltsin has to use an emergency congress of Russian people's deputies in order to dissolve it and to introduce direct presidential rule for 3-4 years imposing a moratorium on any elections and referendums for that period of time. This was stated at a meeting of the parliamentary reform coalition Wednesday [17 February] by Russian people's deputy, member of the radical democrats' faction Viktor Mironov.

However, IF [INTERFAX]'s correspondent reports that most members of the coalition did not support Mironov. First deputy chairman of the Federal Information Center, leader of the radical democrats' faction Sergey Yushenkov said that "both Yeltsin's and Khasbulatov's dictatorships are equally disgusting to him". Mikhail Molostvov, deputy from the Democratic Russia faction

supporting Yushenkov noted that "in the near future we will have to choose between reforms or dictatorship in the form of direct presidential or Khasbulatov's rule".

Some deputies expressed apprehension that the next congress would become a communist revance.

Deputies Reject Draft Law on TV, Radio Broadcasting

PM1802155793 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 Feb 93 First Edition p 1

[Aleksey Vorobyev report: "Sixth Session of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet: Soviet of Nationalities"]

[Text] The Soviet of Nationalities began its work in the morning of 17 February by examining the draft Law "On the Organization of Television and Radio Broadcasting in the Russian Federation."

The drafters of the new law from the Russian Supreme Soviet Committee on the Mass Media saw the document's basic aim as enshrining a mechanism guaranteeing the freedom of the mass media during the transition from state management of radio and television broadcasting to regulation of the companies' activity.

In the opinion of Aleksandr Kopeyka, deputy chairman of the Committee on the Mass Media, the draft law sets out a detailed, meticulous procedure for acquiring and issuing radio and television broadcasting licences, and includes the content of the license application form and lists of grounds for rejecting applications. The draft enshrines the status, competence, and composition of the state organs which are to issue licenses in a fair and professional manner, basically on competitive terms.

Some deputies, however, came to the conclusion that the proposed draft law chiefly regulates the activity of reemerging private radio and television companies while virtually ignoring the problems of state broadcasting. Deputy O. Plotnikov remarked that the principles upon which the leadership of the state companies will be appointed (sorry examples of unwarranted and unexpected dismissals have already occurred) are not clear from the draft law. Parliamentarians are also worried by the state television leadership's manifest political commitment.

Deputy S. Mikhaylov stressed that it is extremely dangerous to allow any political movement to monopolize state radio and televison broadcasting media at a time when 80 percent of the population receives information solely from television news programs. Many queries also arose regarding the procedure for forming federal and regional commissions on radio and televison broadcasting.

As a result of the discussion the parliamentarians rejected the proposed draft law.

Shakhray Outlines Nationality Policy Concept

LD1702154993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1511 GMT 17 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow January 17 TASS—Russian Vice Premier Sergey Shakhray told the Council of Nationalities, one of the two chambers of the Russian bicameral parliament, that a successful nationality policy could be ensured only if the conflict between the branches of power in Russia came to an end.

In his address to the chamber Shakhray stressed that the legislative and executive branches must move hand in hand in this incredibly difficult time.

Shakhray rejected allegations that the Nationality Policy Committee he heads had no independent concept of activity. He said the committee based its activity on "the treaty of federation which is an integral part of the Russian Constitution".

Shakhray added that the wrong impression was due to "inconsistent, chaotic moves of politicians, officials, economic organisations and governments, and the lack of coordination in their activities". Shakhray also complained of the lack of "information support for a soberminded nationality policy".

Shakhray set out his approaches to the realisation of the national policy. He stressed the need to preserve "by any means the unity and integrity of the Russian state".

"I am confident that the present and future politicians are facing and will face the task of turning the multinational composition of the Russian Federation from a weakness into a strength", Shakhray noted.

Along with this, Shakhray spoke about the impermissibility of holding the existence of entire ethnic community hostage in the political games of different political forces. The rejection of armed methods of settling disputes should be an unconditional principle forming the base of the Russian nationality policy. The chief task of any state is "to eliminate bloodshed in one or another place and use force to suppress attempts at settling political disputes, national problems and territorial issues by armed force".

Sergey Shakhray said a special division will be created in the structure of the committee he heads, which will be in charge of forecasting and settling possible conflict situations, and a subdivision to deal with regional economies.

He spoke about new powers vested in him to set up 4-5 regional national policy centres to focus on adjusting regional interests in line with the interests of the state as a whole.

The vice premier voiced a proposal to establish an association of journalists specialising in nationality

problems. He said that as it is, the influence of the mass media on the nationality policy is sooner negative than positive.

Summary of Supreme Soviet 18 Feb Proceedings

LD1802234393

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 2040 GMT on 18 February broadcasts an hour-long program summarizing the day's proceedings of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet.

The program begins by detailing the morning session. The deputies passed in its second reading the draft law on the status of territories suffering from atomic pollution, such as that incurred by Chernobyl, after the chairman of the ecology committee outlined the main points of the draft law. They then proceeded to a discussion of the second reading of the draft law on Moscow, the Russian capital. Shumeyko outlined the main elements in this draft law, and it was adopted. The program then shows a brief extract of Nikolay Repin talking about the draft law on physical training, which was also adopted.

After this, the program says, the deputies adopted an appeal on Yugoslavia—no details are given—and then Valentin Stepankov took the podium.

First, the program says, Stepankov spoke about a new temporary decree about criminals being returned from other republics to Russia if they are facing trial in Russia. Nine of the former republics of the USSR have signed a convention agreeing to this, but the convention has not yet been ratified by their parliaments and bilateral agreements have not yet been reached with those republics which have not signed the convention. This temporary decree, which was passed unanimously, gives the Russian procurator-general the right to enter into discussion with the procurators of the other republics in such instances.

The program says that Stepankov was then asked to give reports on three incidents: the events of 10th December 1992 when there was a pro-Yeltsin demonstration outside the Congress, an item libelling Russia's people's deputies broadcast by a Mayak journalist on 23 December, and an interview by Poltoranin also libelling the Supreme Soviet which appeared in an Italian newspaper and which he claimed did not represent what he had actually said.

Stepankov gave details of all these incidents and the deputies voted to send representatives to the court for these cases of libel.

The program then says that Khlystun then took the podium to explain the spring agricultural work that needs to be done and the money needed to carry this out. He called upon the deputies to increase the amount of money allocated to carry out this work. The resolution was adopted.

Chernomyrdin Notes Need for Economic Correlation Within CIS

LD1802130393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1213 GMT 18 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Ivan Ivanov and Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow February 18 TASS—The speed of reforms in Russia is higher than in other countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin told the Presidium of the Russian Council of Ministers on Thursday [18 February].

Summing up the results of the three-hour discussion of trade and economic relations with the countries of the Commonwealth, the prime minister pointed out that they were "one of the key planks" of Russian policy. The state committee in charge of cooperation with the former Soviet Republics conducts a great deal of work in establishing links with the CIS countries.

Chernomyrdin said the dynamics of development of trade and economic relations with former Soviet Republics should be correlated. At the same time he emphasised the importance of CIS markets for the Russian economy: "These are the markets where our products are competitive." The same is true of the markets of eastern Europe. Incidentally, proposals were made during the debates to give observer status to countries of eastern Europe and Mongolia.

Another salient feature of Russia's cooperation with the CIS countries, the premier said, is that 28 million Russians live in these countries, who "closely follow our actions".

He expressed dissatisfaction with the fact that many agreements, which are signed by former republics of the USSR, are not fulfilled. "We need to change tactics here," Chernomyrdin stressed favouring the creation of a mechanism for implementing the agreements. "The state must not interfere in agreements between various enterprises if they do not harm Russia," he also said.

Chernomyrdin stressed that the Russian Ministry for Foreign Economic Relations "must stand on guard of the interests of the state."

Speaking about Belarus' agreement to abide by decisions of the Russian Central Bank, Chernomyrdin expressed the view that a single rouble zone can be set up only on the territory of three states: Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan.

The premier declared that the CIS states must cease to see Russia as their "elder brother" who often renders them assistance to the detriment of its own interests.

The presidium also endorsed provisions about several Russian ministries and government agencies, including

the Ministry of the Economy and the Ministry for Foreign Economic Relations of Russia.

Further on Comments

LD1802114393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1057 GMT 18 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Ivan Ivanov and Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow February 18 TASS—Chairman of the Russian Council of Ministers Viktor Chenomyrdin, who addressed a meeting of the Presidium of the Russian Council of Ministers here today, moved to form a new system of commercial and economic relations with CIS countries, to set up a common market on the territory of the Commonwealth. He stressed the importance of promoting horizontal contacts among producers, based on market principles. The governments of CIS nations could play the role of guarantors of such ties.

A report on Russia's commercial and economic relations with CIS nations was delivered by Vladimir Mashits, chairman of the Russian State Committee for Economic Cooperation with CIS Countries. He stressed that economic relations with the former republics of the USSR remained among the main priorities of Russia's economic policy. The share of trade with these countries was until recently 100 per cent greater than the volume of export and import transactions with other foreign states.

Mashits noted that these relations were strained in 1992 and that "a bank and customs war was, in fact, under way among the former republics of the union. Russia "has lost the war of prices", failing to collect due to this about two trillion roubles (the country's gross domestic product amounted to 15 trillion roubles in 1992). These two trillions were lost, he explained, because "the actual prices for goods delivered to Russia were closer to the world level than ours: The goods from CIS countries were delivered, on the average, at prices amounting to 70 per cent of the world level, and from Russia to those countries—at prices amounting to 60 per cent of the world figures". Mashits stressed the need to "put an end to this practice and to gradually go over to world prices in the course of the conclusion of corresponding agreements".

Turning to the financial sphere, Mashits said that no republics of the former union, except Belarus, "want to conclude a rigid agreement on the credit-monetary policy", which "means that the rouble cannot be a common currency for all the countries of the Commonwealth. A single rouble would make sense only if it was concertedly emitted by all the national banks of the CIS", he explained, adding that in 1992 Ukraine alone had arbitrarily emitted 700 billion non-cash roubles. "Unconcerted emission was profitable for the republics, which had actually exported inflation to Russia".

Inasmuch as Belarus alone had agreed to accept the rules of the Russian central banks and to adhere to its parameters, Mashits stated, the Belarus rouble will be rigidly "hitched" to the Russian rouble in the 1:1 proportion. "This creates a nucleus, which could serve as a foundation for the future integration of the CIS nations", Mashits stressed. In light of this, he criticised the stand of Kazakhstan, whose leadership, according to Mashits, does lip service to prompt integration, "but does nothing when it comes to translating general words into concrete deeds".

Parliament Decides on Handing Over of Criminals

LD1802192793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1841 GMT 18 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow February 18 TASS—The Russian Supreme Soviet has conferred powers to the Procurator-General Valentin Stepankov enabling him to consider issues on the transfer of Russian citizens convicted by other states' courts to the Russian side for serving sentences on the territory of the Russian Federation until the Russian parliament ratifies the corresponding international agreements. The procurator-general has also received authority to hand over foreign citizens convicted by Russian courts to those states for serving sentences on their territory.

The parliament's resolution "On Handing over Convicted Persons" also empowers the procurator-general to sign on behalf of the Russian Federation an agreement with the Latvian Republic on handing over convicted persons for serving their sentences. The first result of this agreement is likely to be a legal decision by which the Latvia will hand over to the Russian side Russian citizen Sergey Parfyonov convicted by a Latvian court.

This resolution enacted by the Russian Supreme Soviet does not cast doubt on the legitimacy and validity of sentences passed by courts in this or that republic of the former Soviet Union: It concerns only the place where a sentence will be served. The procurator-general informed deputies that about 50 convicted persons having the Russian citizenship or former USSR citizens appealed to Russian authorities with a request to let them serve their sentences in Russia.

Criminal Code Amended Abolishing Exile, Banishment

LD1802141393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1245 GMT 18 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Maria Kuzmenkova]

[Text] Moscow February 18 TASS—The Russian Parliament on Thursday [18 February] amended the criminal

code abolishing four types of punishment: exile, banishment, suspended conviction to imprisonment with compulsory labour and suspended discharge from places of confinement with compulsory labour.

This means that 1,092 exiles will be released in the next three months. However, only a third of 58,400 people serving suspended sentences, who have to serve less than one year, will be set free. The rest will be on probation for a period equal to the left term of confinement but not more than five years.

The parliament also passed a resolution making it incumbent on the Russian Government to provide employment for those released.

Parliament Not To Debate 'Constitutional Crisis'

LD1902114993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1135 GMT 19 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow February 19 TASS—The Russian parliament turned down on Friday [19 February] a proposal by lawmaker Nikolay Pavlov to discuss whether there is a constitutional crisis in Russia.

Pavlov, a representative from the "Russian Unity" opposition group, claimed that President Boris Yeltsin suggested "in fact that the Constitution be scrapped under the plausible pretext of stabilising the constitutional system".

Legislators did not support Pavlov's idea to devote one or two hours of the political debate at today's joint sitting to the issue of a constitutional crisis in Russia.

Instead, they decided to form the parliamentary part of a working group to hammer out an agreement between the legislative and executive authorities on stabilising the constitutional system.

Legislators angrily responded to Pavlov's attacks on chairman of the Constitutional Court Valeriy Zorkin. Understanding their rude nature, Nikolay Ryabov who chaired the sitting, switched off the microphone during Pavlov's speech.

Each Branch of Federal Power To Have Independent Protection

LD1902104093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1021 GMT 19 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yuriy Filippov]

[Text] Moscow February 19 TASS—Each of the three branches of the federal power in Russia—executive, legislative and judicial—will have its own indepndent guards.

A decision to this effect was adopted by the Russian Parliament at a joint session on Friday [19 February], upon voting for the passage of a law "on the state protection of the supreme bodies of state power in the Russian Federation and their officials".

The law seals legal foundations and a procedure for the functioning of state protection agencies that are being established. Each of the three protection services are to be financed from Russia's federal budget—a separate item for each power body.

A proposal, put forward at the session, to set up a single protection service for all the three branches of power was turned down on the plea of the constitution-sealed principle of the separation of powers.

The law also envisages the provision of state protection for citizens registered as candidates for the presidency of the Russian Federation for the period of the election campaign and polling.

Parliament Approves Bill on 'Tax Police'

MK1602121493 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 16 Feb 93 p 2

[Viktor Serov article: "Deputies Approve Creation of New Fiscal Structure"]

[Text] At special hearings in the Supreme Soviet on 15 February, support was expressed for the creation in 1993 of a tax police [nalogovaya politsiya]—a new semi-military organization accountable to the Russian State Tax Service. This institution, endowed with special powers and manned by former officers of the Internal Affairs Ministry, the Security Ministry, and the Armed Forces, will function to expose not only incomes concealed from taxation, but also instances of corruption in fiscal service bodies.

Addressing the hearings, Valeriy Yampolskiy, first deputy chief of the Main Tax Investigations Department, said that at present over 30 percent of profits in Russia are concealed from taxation. In order to tighten up fiscal discipline, government experts have drawn up a package of measures to ensure efficient monitoring of the incomes of state-owned and private organizations. The first step in this direction, Yampolskiy said, will be the draft law "On the Tax Police" that is currently under consideration in parliamentary committees and commissions.

It was pointed out at the hearings that this law was based on other countries' experience of organizing fiscal services, particularly the U.S. Internal Revenue Service. In any event, the Russian tax police will resemble their Western counterparts not only in name, but also in the powers accorded to them. For example, in carrying out inspections, they have the right of uninhibited access to any premises, the right to demand any relevant commercial documents, and the right to recruit personnel from any organization, regardless of its form of ownership.

The creation of the new institution to oversee fiscal discipline, according to Yampolskiy, will substantially increase federal budget revenues. The Main Tax Investigation Department, which is in fact the foundation for the future tax police, has helped raise revenues by approximately 3.5 billion rubles and $300,000 from the time it was set up in August 1992 through January 1993.

At the end of the hearings, the parliamentarians supported the idea of creating a tax police in Russia and passed a decision to draw up a final version of the bill on its institution in March.

[The following information is contained in three boxes:

Box 1. The tax police has the right to:

—conduct operations and investigations to solve, prevent, and stop crimes that come within the jurisdiction of the tax police;

—obtain explanations, information, and documents from individuals and officials;

—in pursuance of their official duties, have uninhibited access to premises occupied by individuals or organizations;

—in certain cases, temporarily station their own officers in enterprises and organizations;

—make use, free of charge, of mass-media facilities and also, by agreement and in pursuance of official duties, the premises of organizations, regardless of their form of ownership.

Box 2. Tax police officers will:

—enjoy the benefits provided under the legislation for servicemen and commanding personnel of Internal Affairs Ministry bodies;

—be exempted from the payment of income tax on their monetary allowances;

—be provided with pensions in accordance with the norms and procedures applying to servicemen;

—have the right to carry service weapons and use them in pursuance of their duties;

—be entitled to receive interest-free loans for individual construction projects with a repayment period of 20 years, with 50 percent of the sum provided being covered from the republican budget.

Box 3. Total monies returned by the tax service to the budget in 1992:

—by the State Tax Service (over the entire year)—225 billion rubles;

—by the State Tax Investigations Department (from August 1992 through January 1993)—3.5 billion rubles and $300,000.

Total tax revenues the budget will not receive in 1993 (forecast)—1 trillion rubles.]

Supreme Soviet State Expenditure Decree

PM1702141593 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Feb 93 First Edition p 6

["Decree of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet on Financing State Expenditure from the Russian Federation Republic Budget for the First Quarter of 1993"]

[Text] For the purposes of ensuring future continuity in financing state expenditure from the Russian Federation Republic Budget pending the adoption of a Russian Federation Law "On the Russian Federation Budget System for 1993," the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet decrees:

1. That consideration be taken of the Russian Federation Government reports on projected economic indicators for 1993, and on the Russian Federation budget system for 1993.

That the reports by the Russian Federation Government and the coreport by the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Soviet of the Republic Budget, Plans, Taxes, and Prices Commission on the draft Russian Federation Law "On the Russian Federation Budget System for 1993," be considered as the presentation of a draft law.

That note be taken of the poor way the draft of the Russian Federation budget system for 1993 reflects the aims of the Russian Federation Government's economic policy.

2. That it be noted that the Russian Federation Government has failed to fulfill Item 1 of the Seventh Congress of Russian Federation People's Deputies Decree "On the Course of Economic Reform in the Russian Federation" as regards presenting the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet with a package of measures to overcome the critical socioeconomic situation in the country.

That it also be noted that the violation of the plan established by the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet 25 December 1992 Decree to discuss the Russian Federation president's budget message was caused by the Russian Federation Government's extremely tardy submission of amplified materials for the budget message.

3. That the Russian Federation Government in conjunction with the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet's Soviet of the Republic Budget, Plans, Taxes, and Prices Commission, other permanent commissions of the chambers, and Russian Federation Supreme Soviet committees, be tasked with reworking and finalizing by 8 February 1993 the draft Russian Federation Law "On the Russian Federation Budget System for 1993" taking account of the results of the discussion of the Russian Federation president's budget message at the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet 28 January 1993 session and the specific proposals of the Russian Federation people's

deputies, with a compulsory, article-by-article disclosure of the revenue and expenditure sections of the budget expressed in foreign currency.

4. That the Russian Federation Government be permitted in the first quarter of 1993 to finance programs and measures on a monthly basis, with the exception of expenditure to back up the activities of Russian Federation presidential representatives in the localities, at a rate of one-twelfth of the volume of allocations envisaged for these purposes in the amplified draft Russian Federation Republic Budget for 1993, submitted by the Russian Federation Government to the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, with monthly briefings for the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet. It is stipulated that the provision of Item 3 of Article 16 of the RSFSR Law "On the Bases of the Budget Structure and the Budget Process in the RSFSR" is not applicable in 1993.

That it be established that the Russian Federation Government is not entitled to finance federal organs of state power and administration from the Russian Federation Republic Budget without consulting the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet. The Russian Federation Government is tasked with agreeing the list of federal organs of state power and administration being financed from the Russian Federation Republic Government with the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet by 15 February.

That it be established that financing expenditure from the Russian Federation Republic Budget is dependent upon the volume of incoming revenue.

5. That the Russian Federation Government proposal be accepted regarding the Central Bank of Russia's provision in January 1993 of credits to the value of:

—150 billion rubles [R]—for advance payments from the Russian Federation Republic Budget to be repaid by August 1993 calculated at an annual interest rate of 10 percent:

—R150 billion—to finance defense industry conversion programs in 1993, to be repaid in equal installments starting from 1996, and calculated at an annual interest rate of 10 percent under the terms envisaged in Article 14 of the Russian Federation Law "On Revising [utochneniye] Indicators for the 1992 Russian Federation Republic Budget."

6. In the first quarter of 1993, the Russian Federation Central Bank is to allocate to the bank's regional branches the necessary volume of centralized credit resources to meet the immediate requirements of enterprises located in the Extreme North regions and similar localities, including early delivery of foodstuffs and consumer goods, and also to finance federal scientific-technical programs.

7. That quotas be set for deductions from control [reguliruyushchiy] taxes into the budgets of national-state and administrative-territorial formations according to the appendix.

8. The Russian Federation Government must:

a) present a draft program of anti-crisis measures to the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet before the examination in its first reading of the draft Russian Federation Law "On the Russian Federation Budget System for 1993";

b) during the first quarter of 1993 work out a mechanism for concluding contracts with enterprises for realizing long-term state orders;

c) guarantee finance for vocational technical schools from the Russian Federation Republic Budget under the procedure envisaged by the Russian Federation Law "On the Russian Federation Budget System for 1992";

d) insert into the classification of revenue for budgets within the Russian Federation the line "...revenue from the commercial usage of state property by enterprises, institutes, and organizations";

e) grant the Russian Federation Ministry of Defense the right to conclude long-term contracts with industrial enterprises developing and manufacturing arms and military hardware with a lengthy production cycle. The Russian Federation Ministry of Finances is tasked with allocating in the first quarter of 1993 up to 40 percent of overall volumes of allocations envisaged in the amplified draft Russian Federation Republic Budget for 1993 to fulfill the state defense order;

f) task the Russian Federation Ministry of Finances with earmarking allocations to the Russian Federation Ministry of Defense in February 1993, using the defense expenditure planned in the amplified draft Russian Federation Republic Budget for 1993 and under a separate heading, to pay outstanding debts from 1992 to enterprises within the industrial sector for fulfilling the state order.

9. That the Russian Federation Ministry of Finances and the Russian Federation State Taxation Service be granted the right to establish in 1993 deadlines for paying taxes, dues, duties, and other contributions to the budget over the course of a month or a quarter, guaranteeing their timely and full inclusion in the relevant budgets.

10. That Russian Federation Ministry of Finances and the Russian Federation Central Bank must conclude an agreement to open a special credit line for enterprises in the agro-industrial complex establishing a discount annual interest rate of 25 percent, with compensation for the difference in interest rates from the Russian Federation Republic Budget and from part of Russian Federation Central Bank profits.

11. The Russian Federation State Taxation Service and the Russian Federation Central Bank must tighten up control over the formulation of documents for payments into the budget in line with Russian Federation legislation.

12. The Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Control and Budget Committee must produce an estimation of budget revenues lost in 1992 and scheduled for 1993 under the heading "revenues from the commercial usage of state property by enterprises, institutes, and organizations."

13. That the Russian Federation president be asked to deliver a budget message for 1994 at the joint session of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet's Soviet of the Republic and Soviet of Nationalities at the beginning of May 1993, and submit an amplified draft Russian Federation Budget System for 1994 for examination by the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet no later than 15 September 1993.

14. That Articles 1 and 2 of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet 25 December 1992 Decree "On Financing State Expenditure from Russian Federation Budgets for the First Quarter of 1993 and On Organizing Work on the Russian Federation President's 1993 Budget Message" be deemed null and void.

[Signed] R.I. Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet; Russian House of Soviets, Moscow; 29 January 1993; No. 4408-1

Regional Affairs

Chernomyrdin Begins Working Visit to Tomsk

OW1502173793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1610 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin has begun a working visit to Tomsk, a regional center in West Siberia. He is accompanied by two Vice-Premiers, Yuriy Yarov and Boris Saltykov, and the chief of the Russian Governors' Council, chief of the Moscow region's administration Anatoliy Tyazhlov.

On Tuesday [16 February] the Prime Minister is planning to attend a session of the council of the regional association "Siberian Accord", which unites 16 regions of Siberia. The session is expected to discuss the restructuring of industrial production and socio-economic development, as well as foreign economic activity and external ties of "Siberian Accord".

Prime Minister Chernomyrdin is going to have a meeting with the administration heads of the Siberian region and visit the Tomsk office of the Siberian branch of the Siberian Academy of Sciences.

On Wednesday, Chernomyrdin will visit thermal power station No. 3 at the local petrochemical plant. He returns to Moscow in the evening of the same day.

The chairman of the Russian Governors' Council, A. Tyazhlov, has said that the Prime Minister's meeting with the chiefs of Siberian regional administrations will embody the cabinet's promise to put the emphasis of reforms on the regions. Tyazhlov said it was impossible to do so quickly on the national scale and that the process would require several stages. The chief of the governors' council said that the Tomsk conference would be the first stage to implement a large-scale regional policy of the federal authorities.

Addresses 'Siberian Agreement' Group

LD1602085693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0753 GMT 16 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Tomsk February 16 TASS—Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin is against the ceding of federal powers to the Russian regions and believes that the motto "Strong regions make strong Russia" is wrong.

Addressing a meeting of the "Siberian Agreement" Association in Tomsk he said that "we need not strong regions, but such conditions in them when the people in any region of Russia can live equally well". It is impossible to "drag" Russia apart into the regions, he told representatives of Siberia where separatist tendencies have been recently voiced.

The prime minister confirmed that his government will continue market reforms in the country, but will change priorities. They include "selective state structural policy" which means higher role of the state in managing economy.

The stake should be put "not only on self-regulating processes in economy, but also on managerial impact on it", he said, adding that it is inadmissible to "decrease the role of the state as the proprietor of most enterprises of the country".

The prime minister agreed that the strategic course of reforms of the former government of Yegor Gaydar was correct, but added that the results of 1992 could have been different. "It was possible to avoid a drastic industrial slump and a sharp decrease in living conditions", he said.

Chernomyrdin assured the oil-rich Siberia that state credits in 1993 will mostly go to the fuel and energy complex, food producers and conversion of defence industry.

The prime minister is against a one-time switch to world prices in trade with former Soviet Republics as it will be "detrimental first and foremost to Russia".

"Strict coordination of actions of the governments of the Commonwealth of Independent States is necessary", he said, adding, however, that several former Soviet Republics "erect obstacles" in trade and economic cooperation with Russia. He did not elaborate.

Chernomyrdin is sure that sooner or later Russia will appear on the world market as an equal partner, but "it is necessary to work for that".

The stabilisation of the internal political situation is the major condition for fruitful economic cooperation with foreign states, he added.

Opposes World Oil Prices at Home

OW1602103593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1005 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin is convinced that the country's economy is not ready for the introduction of world prices for petroleum products on the internal market. Appearing on Tuesday [16 February] in Tomsk, the oblast center of eastern Siberia, at a session of the council of the interregional association Siberian Agreement, he also came out against the introduction of world prices on the regional market, since such a step could reflect negatively on Russia itself, as it is economically closely tied to nearby states.

In Chernomyrdin's opinion, it is still possible to use a system of mixed accounting based on barter, clearing, and ruble payment of world prices in trade with former Soviet republics.

The cabinet head declared himself opposed to the practical application of the slogan "Strong region—strong country." He called for the establishment of equal employment and activity opportunities throughout the Russian Federation. Chernomyrdin cautioned that the artificial establishment of strong regions might lead to a collapse of Russia similar to that of the former Soviet Union.

The premier again confirmed the necessity of tightening credit and financial policy, as well as streamlining and bankruptcy procedures for unprofitable enterprises, given adequate preliminary preparations for the process.

Chernomyrdin reported that in 1992, some 30,000 oil and gas wells had been shut down because of a lack of financial and technical assets.

According to the prime minister, the quality of life of the population fell by a third last year. He is convinced that the collapse in the quality of life and industrial production last year could have been avoided through better cabinet policy.

Comments on 'Siberian Agreement'

LD1602142093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1348 GMT 16 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Tomsk, Western Siberia, February 16 TASS—A meeting of the inter-regional Siberian Agreement Association Council opened here today to call for a single economic and social policy in Siberia.

The association, which has been working for two years, unites 19 districts of the region.

For two days meeting participants will improve and adopt a concept of foreign economic activities and foreign relations of the association, form a coordination council on the industrial policy and conversion, consider the production structure, social-economic development of Siberia and other issues.

Head of the Russian Council of Ministers Viktor Chernomyrdin told the meeting he is against an idea "powerful regions will form powerful Russia". He stressed they need "not the powerful regions but such conditions in them so that working people could live equally well in any part of Russia". Chernomyrdin noted one cannot "pull apart" into regions such a nation as Russia.

The meeting positively estimated the fact the Russian Government has resolutely declared the priority of its regional policy. However, opinions were voiced the regional policy of the Cabinet of Ministers should not be limited to the slogan of shifting "reforms' center of gravity to regions" but be accompanied with specific measures of state support to regions in reform fulfilment.

Meeting participants also called against "shifting off the responsibility for economic reform fulfilment from the center onto regions".

Tomorrow Viktor Chernomyrdin, currently in Tomsk together with Vice-Premiers Boris Saltykov and Yuriy Yarov, government members and head of the Russian Central Bank Viktor Gerashchenko, is expected to visit the Tomsk petro-chemical plant, hold a meeting with heads of regional organizations of leading industrial, construction and transport enterprises.

On Wednesday night he will leave for Moscow.

Discusses Greater Independence for Siberia

LD1602231393 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2000 GMT 16 Feb 93

[By correspondent Pelta from Tomsk; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Upon his arrival in Tomsk, the Russian premier told journalists that his visit was prompted by the need to review the relationship between the center and the regions with a view to broadening the rights of the latter, especially in the economic sphere. The same question was the principal topic on the agenda of the Siberian Agreement Association's sitting, which has started its work in Tomsk. Representatives from the 19 Siberian territories intend to urge the government to give greater

independence to the region in its foreign economic activities as well as to increase its quotas for the basic raw materials.

During the meeting the heads of the largest enterprises handed over to the premier their proposals for changes in the system of taxation of the enterprises, because with the present system they can hardly solve their problems of technical and social development. Most importantly, the Siberian Agreement Association wants the government to understand that at times when Russia is being torn apart, its geographical center remains its rear. [Video shows Chernomyrdin talking to journalists at the airport and at the meeting with members of the association.]

Says Power, Gas Prices To Be Regulated

LD1602224393 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2000 GMT 16 Feb 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Prices for electricity and gas have been and will be regulated, Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin stated at a sitting of the Council of the Siberian Agreement Association in Tomsk. According to him, at present Russia cannot raise prices for oil and petrochemicals to the world level as this cause chaos in the economy. Chernomyrdin spoke against implementing the slogan "A strong region, a strong country" in practice, because artificial attempts to create strong regions can lead to the disintegration of Russia.

The head of the government believes it is necessary to toughen credit and financial policy and to clear up finances and bankruptcy of loss-making enterprises, first making thorough preparations for this process.

Oil Supplies to Ukraine To Decrease

LD1702065893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0641 GMT 17 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Tomsk February 17 TASS—The decrease in oil production in Russia makes it impossible to supply the agreed amount of oil to Ukraine in 1993, according to Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin. Ukraine initially requested 45 million tonnes of oil, but the agreed figure was 25 million tonnes. However, Chernomyrdin told workers of the petrochemical enterprise in Tomsk on Wednesday [17 February] that Russia can ship the maximum of 15 million tonnes to Ukraine. The prime minister sharply criticised the leadership of the enterprise for failure to work out a strategy of future work.

In the meantime, petrol prices in Ukraine are already two times higher than in Russia and people from Ukrainian regions bordering on Russia prefer to buy fuel across the border. But the Russian petrol-selling companies plan to stop the mass outflow of the fuel to Ukraine. Thus, the "Belnefteproduct" organisation in Belgorod, bordering on Ukraine, asked the Fuel Ministry to introduce higher prices for Ukrainian motorists. Besides, it is planned to issue special servicing books to local residents which will allow them to purchase petrol at average Russian prices.

A litre of petrol costs 32-37 roubles in Moscow at present.

Meets With Western Siberian Officials

LD1702151293 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1325 GMT 17 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Tomsk (Western Siberia), 17 Feb (ITAR-TASS)—Viktor Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Council of Ministers, does not link negative tendencies in the economy in 1992 only to the implementation of reforms. "A slump in production in Russia began in the mid-1980s when we all started to actively restructure," the head of the Russian Cabinet stated at today's meeting with heads of Tomsk administration, industrial managers, and people's deputies.

Touching upon the issue of the government providing a greater support to regions, Chernomyrdin said: "Everything the center had, it gave to the regions long time ago," and we "cannot even give new credits to all those asking for them." At the same time Chernomyrdin stressed that, taking into account the specifics of Russia, both the center and the regions should prioritize the development of the fuel and energy complex, agriculture, conversion, the social sphere, and scientific and technical potential.

Chernomyrdin stressed the necessity to improve discipline in the country, "including that in the highest echelons," fight crime, and also noted that all Russian residents, irrespective of their political views, should do their utmost to stabilize the economic situation in the country.

Speaking at the conference, Russian Central Bank Chairman Viktor Gerashchenko stressed that the Bank "agrees to pursue a tighter monetary policy and raise its interest rate." Chernomyrdin is expected in Moscow tonight.

Willing To 'Cooperate'

OW1702180793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1720 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin has expressed his willingness to cooperate with all the political forces in the republic for the sake of national conciliation. In addressing the meeting of industrial managers and civil servants in Tomsk on Wednesday [17 February], Viktor Chernomyrdin said he was open to

any initiatives, "either from the right or from the left and even from the extremists, provided they would help stabilize the situation." The head of the Russian Cabinet emphasized the need for stiffening the country's credit-and-finance policy, noting, however, that the government is not capable of providing loans to all those who are asking for them. Funds will only be allocated to support priority projects, he said.

Chernomyrdin observed that he was frustrated with the progress of the conversion program. In his words, the government spent $5.5-6 billion in 1992 for the needs of the country's oil and gas industry, while all imported equipment, he contends, could have been manufactured in Russia.

Chernomyrdin said that the issue of raising the interest rate on the population's bank deposits has already been resolved in principle.

Discusses Economic Problems in Tomsk

MK1802101493 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 17 Feb 93 p 10

[Marat Salimov article: "Government Studies Siberia's Problems"]

[Text] Regional policy has become one of the Russian government's top priorities, as was shown by Viktor Chernomyrdin's participation in a session of the Siberian Agreement [Sibirskoye Soglasheniye] Interregional Association that was held on 16 February in Tomsk. One of the major results of that session was the declaration that there was no fundamental disagreement between the government and Siberian Agreement on matters of foreign economic activity.

KOMMERSANT-DAILY experts believe that the most interesting thing in practical terms is the Siberian regions' joint action program in the sphere of foreign economic activity. Association representatives think that the most pressing problem today is the granting of additional export quotas to Siberia. The Siberian regions were promised that in 1993 these quotas would be maintained at last year's level, in other words only permitting Siberian goods to be sold outside the former Soviet Union. The possibility of supplying goods to the CIS states has thus been virtually ruled out, and these supplies cannot be restored even to last year's level without a government decision granting additional quotas and simplifying licensing procedures.

It was stressed at the session that in this complicated situation, Siberia's timber and petrochemical industries were sustaining the heaviest losses. The Siberian regional authorities were also seeking greater powers in exploiting natural resources as a means of attracting more foreign investment. As a KOMMERSANT- DAILY correspondent was told at the Tomsk Oblast administration, all the specific suggestions made at the session met with understanding on the part of the Russian Government delegation, and this gives reason to expect that in the near future a number of decisions will be made that give the regions greater leeway in foreign economic activity. In his speech, however, the head of the cabinet did not support the slogan "A strong region means a strong country." At the same time, commenting on the government's position regarding the balance of power between the center and the regions, Chernomyrdin confined himself to observing that "in 1992, Russia had no regional policy." KOMMERSANT-DAILY experts note that the best government strategy in this situation would be to give the regions a greater say in defining export quotas for strategic goods and drafting other decisions not covered by the present laws, while the federal government should retain the oversight functions.

[Article contains following text in two boxes:

Box 1. Highlights of the Russian premier's speech in Tyumen:

—We need to tighten up our credit and fiscal policy and put the unprofitable and loss making enterprises through auditing and bankruptcy procedures;

—Market mechanisms should be complemented by a "selective state structural policy," with no more "blatant weakening of the role of the state as the largest enterprise owner in the country," and by a robust anti-inflation policy;

—A great power like Russia must not be "pulled apart" by the regions. "It is not strong regions that we need, but conditions there that would enable the working people in all parts of Russia to enjoy decent living standards."

Box 2. Proposals put by Siberian Agreement to the Russian Government:

—give association members privileged terms in disposing of the strategic raw materials extracted in Siberia. The association should be able to fix the number of special exporters at its own discretion;

—give association members the right to participate directly in preparing government decisions on specific matters bearing on the interests of the Siberian regions and in the drafting and signing of interstate economic agreements;

—expand the regions' rights in exploiting natural resources with a view to attracting foreign investment;

—grant the regions additional export quotas for deliveries to the CIS countries.]

Further on Visit

PM1802140193 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 18 Feb 93 p 1

[Andrey Illarionov report: "Regions and Center: How Can A Balance of Interests Be Found?"]

[Text] Certain media sources were predicting that "mighty pressure" would be exerted on the Russian Government head by Siberia's oblast and kray administration leaders during the meeting in Tomsk. There were, of course, differences of opinion, but practical mutual understanding was greater. The maturity of any organization manifests itself primarily in the balanced nature of its decisions. The session of the "Siberian Agreement" Interregional Association Council, which was under way in Tomsk, is the best endorsement of this. Just one month ago, while discussing approaches toward the concept of the foreign economic activity of "Siberian Agreement," very categorical opinions were espoused concerning the belief that, in trade deals with foreign partners, the regions can manage best of all without Moscow.

In an interview the day before the "Siberian Agreement" Council session opened in Tomsk, V. Novikov, chairman of the commission for elaborating this concept (he is also chairman of Krasnoyarsk Kray Soviet of People's Deputies), proclaimed the need for compulsory participation by association representatives when decisions on such questions are made by the Russian Government. By then it had become clear that, in setting up effective foreign economic activity, both extremes are equally harmful—the adoption of decisions in Moscow without due account of views in the localities, and efforts at local level to manage such matters without the center. Speaking in Tomsk, the government head reinforced this conclusion with convincing examples of how impetuous Russian exporters, through their vigorous but rash activity, had forced down the prices for products exported abroad to a ludicrous level where export became loss-making.

The government head warned those assembled against a flippant attitude toward economic commitments with neighboring states. The fulfillment of longstanding reciprocal deliveries established with these countries in itself constitutes vital economic life, without which production units will grind to a halt.

This same logic of mutual cooperation and responsibility between the regions and the center was manifest during a discussion on the problems of regulating the regions' and center's attitudes toward the utilization of minerals and natural resources. The one-sided, centralized approaches of the past, which did not take due account of all the consequences of a decision, are costing us too dearly today.

Irkutsk Oblast Administration Head Yu. Nozhikov said: "There are many inconsistencies in the new law on mineral wealth. It contains the remnants of a unitary state. Federal and regional ownership of resources will have to be clearly delineated. Observations expressed over the draft of this law were simply ignored in the Russian Supreme Soviet at the time."

And Viktor Chernomyrdin was forced to agree with this formulation of the question. He stressed that switching the center of gravity of economic reforms to the localities is a lengthy, relentless, and difficult task in improving economic relations. The question of which functions to transfer to the regions, and which to keep for the state, is not an easy one. Particularly as the role of the state as the main proprietor in the country has been severely weakened in recent years. In many ways, this is the source of the chaos in today's economy. The government and the regions must move away from such economic and organizational anarchy without delay.

As for the expected "pressure" on the government from the regions, it would be more correct to describe it as demands of a highly urgent nature regarding immediate measures of economic, management, and administrative support for agricultural enterprises, without which the spring sowing may not take place, and without which it is difficult to count on the preservation of livestock farming.

Among other things, these demands included allocating high priority credit to provide spare parts for sowing equipment, motor fuel, and even good quality seed in some places. The matter also concerned the need for urgent measures to effect the kind of pricing system for livestock production which would rule out difficulties encountered by an increasing part of the population in purchasing such products on the one hand, and the growing problems encountered by agricultural enterprises with the sale of these products on the other hand. The formulation of these questions met with understanding and support from the government representatives.

And although skeptics and realists believe that it will be the year 2010 before there is a return to normal consumer structures in Siberia, Siberian economists continue nevertheless to adhere to the concept of developing Siberia as a leading region which, with a courageous use of its resources, may become the key to extricating the country from crisis. Joint projects between the republics, krays, and oblasts to set up a common, highly efficient food base, improve the fuel and energy complex for Siberia, develop the transport network, and produce consumer goods, may become real forms of integration for Siberia.

Stop Press: Speaking in Tomsk at a meeting with the leadership of the local petrochemical combine, Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin severely criticized Viktor Ivanov, leader of the Committee for the Chemical Industry, and the Ministry of the Economy for major miscalculations in the strategic planning of oil production on the territory of Tomsk Oblast, reflected in the lack of clear links between refining production units and the raw material sources, and in the creation of enterprises doing identical work.

Paper Says Tomsk Residents Favor Referendum

PM1802154993 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Feb 93 First Edition p 2

[Aleksandr Chernykh report: "Stepan Stepanovich Speaks With the People"]

[Text] Inhabitants of Tomsk Oblast learned with some surprise recently that they are very much in favor of holding a referendum. Moreover, they are in favor of relieving the current Congress of People's Deputies of the responsibility of adopting a new Constitution. This was declared in ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 6 February by Stepan Sulakshin, presidential representative in Tomsk Oblast, under the rubric "Voices From the Hinterland."

Such unanimity in the hinterland is intriguing. I think a referendum on the referendum must already have taken place in our country. Or one of the major sociological research institutes has made its way through the taiga and the snowstorms, questionnaire in hand, to reach each and every geologist, each and every oilman.

There is no unity of views in the political parties. The communists are in favor of boycotting the referendum. The local "Democratic Russia" is for a constituent assembly. And the newly emerged "Reform Solidarity" coalition favors an alternative way. And all the coalition members together comprise around 60 people. Obviously, Stepan Stepanovich himself has decided everything for everybody.

A few days ago on local television he spoke with local inhabitants. The conversation was recorded beforehand during one of his flying visits to the oblast. Stepan Stepanovich is on the screen, but at the same time it is as if he is not there. Sulakshin said nothing about unanimity in respect of the April elections, but he stated confidently that they had thoroughly looked into everything despite the absence of specific manifestos [formulirovki]. They understand who is who on the political Olympus. Who is fighting consistently for the sovereignty of the people, and who is following the example of the Bolsheviks and seeking to usurp power. Then Stepan Stepanovich intensified the analogy and rendered it more specific. In his words, the current Russian parliament leader wants to be like the CPSU Central Committee general secretary. The Russian Supreme Soviet is laying claim to the role of the Politburo, and the Congress of People's Deputies is nothing but the CPSU Congress. In short, they are bad people. There is an alternative—the president. His policy must be followed. In a word, a directive has been issued ahead of the referendum.

And so? If need be, we will stand in line for the sacred polling booths from evening onward. This is what local inhabitants who have found themselves in big-time politics have proclaimed, and are proclaiming, to the whole of Russia.

Situation Unchanged in Ossetian-Ingush Conflict Zone

LD1802143793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1323 GMT 18 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz February 18 TASS—The situation in the zone of the Ossetian-Ingush conflict remains in many respects unchanged. According to information from the headquarters of the provisional administration, in the last twenty-four hours, patrol police special-duty squads examined over 2000 cars confiscating dozens of firearms, grenades and hundreds of cartridges of different caliber.

The delegation plenipotentiary of the North Ossetian Republic which conducted talks with the Ingush side on the settlement of the armed conflict in the Prigorodnyy district of North Ossetia through the mediation of representatives of Dagestan and the Stavropol territory, returned from Kislovodsk today, a spokesman for the press center of the Supreme Soviet and the Security Council of North Ossetia told ITAR-TASS.

The North Ossetian delegation launched a protest and demanded that the Ingush side revoke the decision of the Central Electoral Commission of the Ingush Republic on holding presidential elections on the territory of the Prigorodnyy district and in a part of the Vladikavkaz residential area.

According to reliable sources, in response to these actions of the North Ossetian delegation, the administration of the Ingush Republic, the Russian president's representative in Ingushetia and the Central Electoral Commission have officially clarified that the formation of a special constituency and a constituent commission for voters, who were deported from the Prigorodnyy district and Vladikavkaz, means that voting will be held at polling-districts on the territory of the Malgobek, Nazran and Sunzhen districts of Ingushetia.

Third Round Ossetian-Ingush Talks End Without Results

OW1802180993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1553 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The third round of the Ossetian-Ingush talks in Kislovodsk brought no results on Thursday [18 February]. According to INTERFAX sources, the negotiating parties signed a protocol which says that the talks should be continued. However, the delegations made separate notes setting forth their disagreements.

The Ossetian delegation stated that the Ingush Electoral Commission's decision to include Vladikavkaz and North Ossetia's Prigorodnyy region in the electoral districts involved in the election of Ingush president, was anti-constitutional.

In its turn, the Ingush delegation noted that this fact could not hamper the talks.

The decision to end the third round of talks was taken after the Ossetian delegation stated on Thursday that it would continue the talks only after the Ingush party acknowledges its violations of the Russian Constitution and annuls the letter of intent, signed during the first round of the Kislovodsk talks on January 24.

Bashkortostan Interrupts Talks With Moscow

OW1802141793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1133 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Bashkortostan had to "interrupt talks with Russia, although negotiations are proceeding well, chairman of Bashkortostan's parliament, Murtaza Rakhimov, told representatives of the agroindustrial complex in Birsk.

"We shall wait till Tatarstan signs a similar agreement with Russia, so we have no less power than Tatarstan," said Rakhimov. "We would like Russia to hold simultaneous talks with Bashkortostan and Tatarstan," he added.

Vorkuta Miners Call Off Strike

LD1802140993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1241 GMT 18 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Makarov]

[Text] Vorkuta (Komi Republic) February 18 TASS—The striking "Vorgashorskaya" mine, the largest in the Vorkuta coal basin, has partially resumed work today. A miners' meeting has decided to officially call off the strike on February 20. Today, the miners are busy on preparatory and maintenance jobs. Several teams have begun to cut coal.

As earlier reported, the strike was called in protest against the arrest of Ivan Guridov, elected "people's director" by an emergency conference of the "Vorgashorskaya" personnel. He is accused of slandering the mine's director Petr Yermakov, who was refused confidence by the conference. The miners demand his dismissal. Guridov was released on a bail of one million roubles, paid by the independent Vorkuta Miners' Union. He signed an obligation to report to the court when hearings of his case begin. Some of the miners, who were on a hunger strike underground, returned to the surface on Wednesday [17 February] evening. The meeting decided to give them a respite and this explains why the strike will officially end on February 20.

The miners demand a competent commission to investigate the reasons why the pit ventilators were stopped for more than 20 hours on Monday. The management claims that this was due to an accident on the power transmission line caused by a blizzard. Workers suspect that this was done deliberately to force the strikers out of the mine....

An emergency conference of the "Vorgashorskaya" mine is expected to meet on Friday. The miners plan to elect a permanent director of the pit, who will lead a special "Vorgashorskaya" delegation to Moscow, where he is to be endorsed in office by the Russian Ministry for Fuel and Energy. The miners have nominated Ivan Guridov as their chief candidate to the post of "Vorgashorskaya" director. The conference will also discuss the problem of the mine's privatisation. The miners want the mine to belong to them.

Dagetsan Plant Switching to Civilian Output

PM1802132593 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1500 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Report by Dekabr Beybutov and Igor Malyshev from Kaspiysk's "Dagdizel" Plant; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] There is good news in the economic sphere. The "Dagdizel" Plant in Kaspiysk, for example, has assimilated the series production of a rotary mower designed for harvesting, shredding, and loading green feed, complete with a trailer for transporting the feed. Other models of agricultural machinery are being developed.

[Beybutov over video of production facilities] Speaking about Kaspiysk's defense industry enterprise, it cannot be said that the "Dagdizel" Plant has addressed the elementary everyday needs of the republic, Russia, and CIS countries only as a result of conversion.

Much of what you see here in the plant's museum are not souvenirs of past successes. Many of these useful items are coming off the production line right now. But whereas before they accounted for less than one-third of the total output volume, the ratio has sharply changed now. Currently civilian output accounts for some 80 percent, or just under 40 different types of goods, including consumer goods. "Dagdizel's" new products include a universal cake mixer and dough kneader which has won recognition in all the CIS countries.

In short, the scientific, technical, and production potential of this defense industry enterprise, which was built up over decades, is not being wasted in Dagestan but is being put to good use for civilian purposes.

Converted Belgorod Plant 'Penalized' by Customs Duty

PM1802132493 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 16 Feb 93

[By Vitaliy Pidchenko from Belgorod; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Pidchenko voice over video of interior of plant] However hard it was for the former military enterprise simultaneously to be deprived of generous subsidies and to switch to meager civilian rations, it has carried out conversion brilliantly. These are all new articles which it produces and which are already in the stores—from washing machines, vacuum cleaners and baby carriages to soft furnishings. Some 15 of the types of output in greatest constant demand have been assimilated. And optimism and strength have increased since the plant received the status of a joint-stock company. A free company? Not entirely. They recently imported from America a state of the art production line for making vacuum cleaners. The state, which metes out the same treatment to both commodity producers and traders in imported lemonade, has penalized the plant with customs duty totalling 90 million rubles, that is as though the plant workers had never received about two thirds of last year's profit. Now there is nothing left for them to do but to increase prices for their goods.

[V.A. Zimin, the plant's chief engineer] Investment policy, credit policy, taxation policy, must be geared to the producer. Only that way is it possible to encourage the expansion of production.

Special Investigator Probes Arms Sales in Khabarovsk

OW1802135193 Vladivostok Radiostantsiya Tikhiy Okean Maritime Service in Russian 0815 GMT 16 Feb 93

[From the "Pacific Ocean" program]

[Text] A group headed by Georgiy Chiglazov, senior investigator for particularly important matters under the General Procurator of the Russian Federation, has arrived in the Far East Military District to determine the circumstances surrounding the illegal sale of military equipment by commercial enterprises and military formations on the instructions of highly placed leaders in the Far East Military District.

According to Anatoliy Levin, chairman of the Khabarovsk Kray Soviet Commission for Legality and Law and Order, assertions that a group of corrupt leaders of state, control, military, and other organizations is operating in Khabarovsk are more than serious.

International Affairs

Kravchuk Hopes Nixon Can Analyze Nation's Situation

OW1802222293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1955 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Former US President Richard Nixon arriving on a fact-finding mission in Kiev has held a meeting with President Kravchuk of Ukraine.

Kravchuk is hopeful that the visiting guest will be able to analyse the situation in Ukraine something that Kiev sees as very important.

Nixon who'd already visited Russia spoke of being once again convinced of the need for normal relations between Kiev and Moscow. He also said President Yeltsin was among Kravchuk's best friends and that a personal relationship between the two men was vital for both countries.

Nixon and Kravchuk had next held a private meeting with each other.

The ex-US President also met the country's Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma.

Ukraine Continuing To Buy Enriched Uranium From Russia

LD1802095193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0908 GMT 18 Feb 93

[By UKRINFORM correspondent for TASS]

[Text] Kiev February 18 TASS—Ukraine will continue to buy enriched uranium for its nuclear power plants from Russia as prices there are 40-50 per cent less than in the West, according to an agreement reached by representatives of atomic energy ministries of both countries at a meeting at the Zaporozhie nuclear power plant.

Ukraine also wants to bury its nuclear waste in Russia and agreed on the issue with envoys of the nuclear-waste processing enterprise in Krasnoyarsk, Siberia. However, a permission from local Russian authorities is necessary.

Ukraine which mines uranium on its own territory sends it for enrichment to Russian enterprises. A quota has been determined for the Russian use of Ukrainian uranium, however, it is not clear whether Russia will use it in full. Ukraine which is interested that Russia consumes 100 per cent of the quota plans to hold further negotiations on the issue.

Ukraine remains the main buyer of Russian uranium as Moscow cannot export it in big quantities because of anti-dumping legislation of Western countries, according to the Ukrainian Atomic Energy Ministry. Besides, Russia is also interested in Ukrainian zirconium which it uses for production of fuel pipes for its nuclear plants.

But Ukraine does not abandon plans to construct its own uranium enriching and waste processing enterprises. An international contest is being planned to look for the best project which will include all the necessary infrastructure for the atomic energy industry.

Government Opposes Transfer of Former USSR Assets to Russia

OW1802224093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1954 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Ukrainian government is confirming its negative stance on the transfer of the former USSR's assets to Russia.

The cabinet press service distributed a statement Thursday [18 February] in Kiev on the results of Russian-Ukrainian negotiations which took place in Moscow February 12-13, which notes that Ukraine's position on these issues is based on standards of international law and CIS treaties and agreements. "According to these documents, no one state has been given the executive unilateral rights to own, manage, or use the foreign assets and debts of the former USSR," the statement points out.

Ukraine recognizes the need to solve the problem of the former USSR's debt and thinks the states - the USSR's former subjects - should fulfill the financial obligations to foreign creditors. The announcement states that at the last Russian-Ukrainian negotiations in Moscow, when the real threat of a moratorium on payments arose, Kiev proposed several ways to solve the problem.

At the negotiations Ukraine mainly pushed for the acceptance of an agreement proposed by the Paris Club of creditors. According to this plan, Ukraine and Russia would be jointly responsible for 100% of the former USSR's debt, with shares of 16.37% and 83.63%, respectively. Payments would be conducted through Vneshekonombank, but with separate channels of payment for Moscow and Kiev.

Ukraine could not approve of the unilateral ownership, use, and command of assets by Russia. Nor did it approve of the Russian delegation's stance on giving Ukraine a portion of the assets proportionally equivalent to their share of the debt payment.

Regarding negotiations with the Russian delegation on the prices of energy products, the press release from the Ukrainian government states that Kiev confirmed its position regarding changing the prices on energy products to world price levels. Ukraine said a transition period should be introduced before the final change.

Report Alleges Russia Violating UN Sanctions on Serbia

LD1802215993 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Network in Ukrainian 1700 GMT 18 Feb 93

[No video available]

[Excerpt] The tug Komovi arrived here recently. According to preliminary data, the tug is violating UN sanctions against Serbia. It is carrying a cargo destined for Russia.

As soon as the Komovi arrived in the port of Izmail, the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry received an appeal from Romania and the United States with a request to halt and examine this vessel to prevent a violation of UN sanctions. It has now been ascertained that the tug Komovi, registered in Prahovo, was towing five barges, two of which were empty and three which were carrying a cargo of corn and footwear. The cargo is destined for (Gasexport).

The barges originated from the ports of Belgrade and Vukovar. As you know, although the town and port of Vukovar are Croatian, they are now occupied by the Serbian Army. In accordance with Security Council Resolution 757, all states should hinder any delivery of goods from the FRY, and not only from its territory but also on vessels which sail under the flag of this Republic, with the exception of medicines and food products. The tug and the barges arrived under the flag of the FRY, i.e. Serbia and Montenegro.

The corn from the barges is destined for the Kirovsk and Omsk elevator, while (Gasexport) bases in Tyumen and Orenburg, the (Transgazursa) in Saratov, and (Yuggasursa) in Astrakhan should receive the footwear.

Recalling the recent scandal on the world level, when a Russian oil tanker [navtovyk] sold oil via Bulgarian vessels violating UN sanctions, this cargo could be considered payment, but so far this is only one version. The captain on board the tug Komovi did not allow us to film and refused to give an interview. A representative of the Yugoslav river company also refused to give us an interview, citing the fact that he did not have permission from his company for such speeches. [passage omitted]

Ukrainian, Russian Nuclear Power Industries To Cooperate

LD1802193293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1842 GMT 18 Feb 93

[By UKRINFORM-TASS]

[Text] Kiev February 18 TASS—A meeting of Russian and Ukrainian nuclear power specialists held at the Zaporozhskaya nuclear power station clarified to a considerable extent the two issues which are of overriding importance to Ukrainian nuclear physicists today: Taking out used fuel, radioactive waste and getting replacement supplies.

Ukrainian specialists and representatives of the Krasnoyarsk integrated mining and chemical mill coordinated a plan to take radioactive waste out of Ukrainian nuclear power plants. Ukraine is yet to get a consent of the local authorities in Krasnoyarsk territory who have so far been obstructing the acceptance of radioactive waste from Ukrainian stations.

At the meeting the partners reached an agreement that Russian nuclear fuel will be supplied under a definite scheme because Uranium produced in Ukraine is the basic raw material for the production of fuel by Russian enterprises. The cost of Uranium is deducted from the general cost of the supplied fuel. The amount of Ukrainian Uranium used by Russia is defined by the fixed quota. Whether Russia will use it by 100 per cent, which is undoubtedly in Ukraine's interests, will be the topic of subsequent talks between the sides.

Cooperation between the Ukrainian and Russian nuclear power engineering industries, which were developed mindful of the requirements of the former Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA), seems to be economically expedient for both countries. It was calculated that it will cost Ukraine by 40 to 50 per cent more to buy nuclear fuel from Western powers whose enrichment plants operate at less than half of their capacity than from Russia.

Russia, which has vast Uranium reserves, cannot sell them on the world market in large amounts being restrained by Western countries' anti-dumping legislation. Ukraine remains the main buyer of Russian enriched Uranium. In addition, Ukrainian Zirconium, a raw material for producing fuel rods for nuclear power plants, is of major importance to Russian nuclear fuel producers.

Meanwhile, Ukraine does not abandon plans to create its own waste processing and nuclear fuel production complex with the assistance of Western partners. It plans to announce an international contest for the best project to create such a complex to include the entire infrastructure necessary for nuclear power engineering.

Fund for Nation's Diplomatic Service Announced

OW1802183793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1758 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The presentation of a fund for promoting Ukraine's diplomatic service took place in Kiev on Thursday [18 February]. As the founders said, with the help of such an organization they hope to receive from enterprises and private citizens funds for giving practical aid to Ukrainian diplomacy.

The funds to be obtained are to be spent on purchasing buildings and equipment for Ukrainian embassies and consulates abroad, on helping their staff learn foreign

languages, on giving student grants to those whom the Foreign Ministry sends to study abroad.

The manager of the fund, whose income will be tax-free, is the Foreign Ministry itself.

Ukraine's parliament has drafted a resolution under which Kiev will open its embassies and consulates in Algeria, Vietnam, Guinea, Georgia, Indonesia, Yemen, Kenya, Cuba, Lithuania, Morocco, Mexico, Nigeria, the United Arab Emirates, Panama, Senegal, Syria, Singapore, Slovenia, Slovakia, Thailand, Uzbekistan, Croatia, Chile, Estonia and South Africa.

National Affairs

Kravchuk Addresses Workers on Ties With Russia, Economics

OW1802194793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1717 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Leonid Kravchuk is satisfied with the results of his two-day stay in Lugansk and Donetsk Regions, Vladimir Shlyaposhnikov, the head of state's press secretary, told INTERFAX. Kravchuk's third trip since he became president to these most important industrial areas has helped to solve numerous specific problems and alleviate concerns which are partly attributable to a shortage of information available to the public, said he.

Explaining the government's position on key issues in domestic and foreign policies was a major point of discussion during the tour. Some people criticized the president's approach to participation in CIS organizations. In particular, an opinion was voiced that "had Ukraine signed the Commonwealth Charter, all its economic problems would be solved." Kravchuk said in response that Russia's economic policy had been defined long ago and was independent of whether any state had signed the Charter or not.

Kravchuk has repeatedly emphasized the "key" importance of relations with Russia. "We have been and will live in friendship," he said. On the other hand, he noted the desire of some forces in Russia to obstruct normal economic cooperation. He recalled that on numerous occasions treaties and agreements were signed but "something changes in Moscow within three days." He does not see problems in the dialog with the Russian leaders; it is the lower echelons of the executive branch that interfere, he thinks. Speaking at a factory, the president said that in carrying through reforms, Ukraine cannot rely on any country's unselfish aid. "Russia means no offense, it acts in a civilized manner." According to Kravchuk, Ukraine must not try to indict Russia politically; rather, it should use economic leverage and work for mutually beneficial relations with it.

In numerous speeches the President called for ending political bickering within the country and for concentrating on improving the economy in order to "survive" in the present difficult circumstances. In particular, he objected to holding parliamentary elections immediately. In his words, the elected president and parliament have formed a government and so the legislative and executive branches are quite legitimate and must continue in office. "The government must not be subjected to continuous beating. If this Cabinet resigns, no new government will be formed," said the president. He thinks that new elections can be held once a new Constitution is adopted. Before that, he is convinced, a referendum must be held on whether Ukraine will be a presidential or a parliamentary republic or a cross between the two.

In the country's east the so-called "Russian speaking population" (some experts believe, chiefly Ukrainians who are not fluent in their national language) accounts for a large share of the total. The "language" issue was raised during this presidential tour. A woman in Kramatorsk, Donetsk Region, told the President that she was concerned with the parliamentary hearings, now under preparation, on new language legislation, notably with one provision on the failure to know the state - Ukrainian - language which allegedly goes as far as dismissal of officials for this misdemeanor. The president replied that there was no question of forcible or punitive legislation in this sphere.

Parliament Refuses To Pass Law on Cabinet of Ministers

OW1802181593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1554 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Ukrainian parliament on Wednesday [17 February] evening refused to approve a draft law on the cabinet of ministers, insisting on amendments to it. Some members of parliament thought the law in its present form would give excessive powers to the cabinet presidium, which would, under certain circumstances, be authorized to issue decrees, something that would normally be done by the cabinet itself.

The law would also put the cabinet under the President's control and oblige the cabinet to make reports to parliament. The latter would have powers to give a vote of no confidence to the prime minister, individual cabinet members, or the entire cabinet. The matter would be put on the agenda if more than half of parliament voted for this. The cabinet as a whole or the premier would have to go if two-thirds of parliament voted for it, whereas a simple majority vote would be enough to have any other cabinet member dismissed. If parliament does not vote

the cabinet out of power, it must wait another six months before voting on this issue again.

Latest Labor Disputes, Parliamentary Conflicts Reported

PM1802143193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 18 Feb 93 pp 1, 2

[Sergey Tsikora report: "Ukraine: Conflicts in the Streets and in Parliament"]

[Text] Kiev—The steadily worsening economic crisis in Ukraine has started to manifest itself in its most alarming form, and not many people can now predict where, when, and on what pretext they can expect the outbreak of another conflict in which both sides consider themselves to be in the right.

On 16 February, for example, Kiev was caught unawares by a tram and trolleybus drivers' strike. It took the completely unsuspecting people several hours to get to work in the freezing weather. Passengers were not warned in advance about the action being prepared by the transport workers, neither were the city authorities, and therefore they did not manage to mobilize the departmental motor transport on time.

The drivers who had declared the "wildcat" strike were demanding a sharp increase in earnings and an improvement in working conditions. The city executive authorities have refused to hold talks with the strikers. I. Saliy, the president's representative in Kiev, stated that if the strike continues the drivers will be returned to the depot by means of civil defense mobilization.

"The capital will not be the hostage of the drivers' self-seeking moods," the president's representative declared on Ukrainian radio.

But trolleybuses and trams did not appear in the streets of Kiev in the morning of 17 February. Departmental and military transport was brought in to transport the passengers. The city Prosecutor's Office has now become involved in the conflict between the drivers and the authorities.

The general mood of nervousness in the capital of Ukraine has also permeated the parliament building. The question of the election of the republic Constitutional Court personnel, which has been entered on the agenda, has yet again brought opposition by deputies' groups. Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Chairman I. Plyushch has had to suspend the session and announce an extended recess three times. Things even reached the point where the speaker was surrounded and there was a slight scuffle near the central rostrum. Admittedly, the famous words uttered at one time from behind the desk of the chairman at the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, who requested protection from the temperamental deputies, were not repeated by the speaker of the Ukrainian parliament.

The democrats have joined open political battle with the conservative majority in parliament. They were deeply convinced that the elected court in its proposed form "may become an obedient tool in the hands of the proteges of yesterday's party nomenklatura... It may become a political tribunal rather than a Constitutional Court," upholding the old Constitution, a statement of the People's Rada says.

The conservatives have their reasons. They are openly pinning their hopes on the Constitutional Court for putting an end to the anarchy, liberalism, and political license that have gripped society. The conservative majority in parliament, which was elected back in the Soviet era, believes that the Constitutional Court, which legally stands above the president, the government, and the Supreme Soviet, will be able to become an efficient instrument correcting their policy in the direction the conservatives need.

The democrats did not manage to block the elections to the Constitutional Court, although they even resorted to the method of open boycotting and did not participate in the ballot. In the morning of 17 February the results of the secret ballot were announced on Ukrainian radio. Of eight candidates, only four obtained the necessary number of votes. But one of these turned out to be the candidate who generated the most disputes among the deputies. This contender not only does not speak the republic's state language at present, which in theory could be put right, but at one time he voted in parliament against the declaration of Ukrainian independence.

If the Supreme Soviet ratifies the results of this ballot, carried out in violation of the constitution and of current legislation, the democrats state, then the People's Rada "will assess this act as the beginning of a neobolshevik coup."

The political confrontation surrounding the election of the Constitutional Court will evidently not end here. Even if the four candidates to the court posts are ratified today, the Supreme Soviet still has to elect another 11 people in order for the Constitutional Court to be fully staffed, and this may turn into a most violent political tornado.

Belarus

U.S. Grants Belarus Most Favored Nation Status

LD1802131693 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0400 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Text] After an exchange of diplomatic notes between the Belarusian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the U.S. Embassy, an agreement was implemented on trade relations between these two states. With the implementation of the agreement our republic received the most favored nation status in trade relations with the United States. In that connection a new tariff scale is being drawn for Belarussian goods which are exported to the United States.

The United States expressed satisfaction in connection with the implementation of another important agreement between our two state. This step underlines the seriousness with which the United States regards development of relations with the Republic of Belarus.

U.S. Ambassador Visits Academy, Discusses Cooperation

WS1902073593 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1100 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Report by correspondent Ivan Hlasnits]

[Text] [Hlasnits] In the current situation, an important role is played by the training of personnel for work in the conditions of market economy. The meeting of the Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary U.S. Ambassador David Swartz with the personnel of the Academy of Management at the Republic's Council of Ministers was aimed at outlining Belarusian-American cooperation in this sphere. At its opening, the Academy rector Anatol Klubenko said:

[Begin Klubenko recording] I think I will express the common opinion by saying that this meeting is an event of utmost importance and great meaning for the academy staff. We all know Mr. Swartz to be a person who spares no effort or energy for the development of his country's relations with our Republic. Due to the ambassador's personal initiative, Belarusian enterprises and organizations received a chance to develop humanitarian, economic, trade, and other relations with the United States, whose role and influence on the international arena can not be overestimated. We are viewing your visit to the academy not only as a preface to further fruitful contacts and long term cooperation, but as proof of your acknowledgement of the cooperation potential in the relevant sphere of manager staff training and improvement of skills. The visit also promises joint scientific research in this sphere. [end recording]

[Hlasnits] The conference discussed the ways to create the Republic's personnel potential, the issues of training and improvement of skills in the fields of state and economic management, foreign economic activity, and the development of international cooperation. The implementation of a number of joint programs and projects on the improvement of the manager training process was also discussed. The conversation was open and interesting. Ambassador Swartz spoke highly of it.

[Begin Swartz recording in Russian] This was our first meeting at this institution, at the academy. I am very happy not only to have such a chance but also to witness a very warm reception. The discussion was very interesting, we tackled interesting issues. I hope that this is just the first step in the development of honest and mutually advantageous contacts in this academy. [end recording]

Deputy Prime Minister, U.S. Senator Discuss Aid

WS1902074093 Minsk BELINFORM in Russian 1255 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Text] "The Chernobyl disaster modified our relations with foreign partners and prevented our fruitful cooperation. That is why meetings with representatives of social organizations and foundations and with people of good will are important events." These were the words that Mikhail Demchuk, Belarusian deputy prime minister, addressed to U.S. Senator Joseph Holland and a Ramapo school delegation from New York state on 16 February.

Remembering but ignoring the American saying that "you cannot put all your eggs in one basket," the deputy prime minister and Joseph Holland discussed a number of issues unrelated to humanitarian aid. The aid devoted to Chernobyl victims has been collected by the Ramapo school students and teachers for several years. The senator expressed his wish to meet with some representatives of the Belarusian Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations to discuss the establishment of a Belarusian-American joint venture. According to the U.S. politician and his Ramapo colleagues, such a structure would yield a definite profit. A joint venture could be also used for supplying Belarus with the necessary medicines and other goods.

"This is my first visit to Belarus, but I am confident that our nations are very much alike and that they have the same goals and aspirations. I wish we had been closer for many years," said Joseph Holland in conclusion. "I want Belarusians to know that the aid collected by our students, businessmen, and the military is not just a gesture but an expression of sincere understanding of your problems."

Delegation To Arrive in U.S. 18 Feb for Oil Talks

OW1702174493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1622 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On February 18 a state delegation from Belarus, headed by First Deputy Chairman of the republic's Supreme Soviet Vyacheslav Kuznetsov, will begin a ten day visit to the United States. The Belarusian parliament's press service told an INTERFAX correspondent that the main object of the visit is to develop possibilities for expanding investment for oil extraction in the Pripyat Basin (in Belarus' Gomel District), and to search for new deposits.

INTERFAX Note: According to information from government sources, Belarus currently extracts about 2 million

tons of oil each year. Experts estimate that the country has about 60 million tons of oil in industrial reserves. However, specialists say the country still has many undiscovered deposits.

Kuznetsov will talk with the American oil extraction and refining corporation Greenberg Production Corporation. The Belarusian delegation plans to visit the company's branches in Denver, Colorado, and Houston, Texas.

Government, Trade Unions, Employers Sign Agreement

WS1902063993 Minsk BELINFORM in Russian 1032 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Text] A general agreement between the Belarusian Council of Ministers, the Trade Union Federation, and the Employers' Association for 1993 is designed to improve the economy, create conditions for increasing production, and supply goods for the consumer market.

This document that was signed and came into force on 10 February confirms the social partnership between the government, the workers, and the employers. According to the document, the contracting parties promise to promote in every possible way the creation of different ownership forms at enterprises for the stabilization of the production process, the development of economic relations among them, and the formation of an effective means of interaction. The parties also agree to adopt measures to conclude and implement economic agreements with other states, to stabilize financial relations, to hasten payments among the CIS states, and to protect the internal market.

The agreement establishes the basis for deliveries to enterprises and organizations of the most important industrial, technological, and consumer goods, agricultural produce, and raw materials for state needs.

The parties state that it is necessary to speed up the conclusion of tariff and collective agreements as the basis for social partnership. They also believe that such agreements should include the indicators of production and economic activity, such as the volume of turnout, the growth of labor productivity, profitableness, the workers' social development, and should establish economically motivated interrelations between the indicators of labor effectiveness and the wage growth.

The parties will review pensions, grants, and other social benefits with due consideration for inflation, the economic situation and minimum wages in all industries. The parties also decided to maintain the gap between the inflation rate and the growth of people's incomes at the 25-30 percent level.

The parties agreed to work out a national program on satisfying the need for housing. They decided to maintain the 1992 level of capital investment for housing and to double to volume of individual and cooperative housing construction.

The parties agreed to prepare and adopt in the first quarter of 1993 a national employment program, taking into the account the situation in the labor market and possible redundancies. They also committed themselves to restructure state enterprises that are coming to a standstill due to the shortage of raw materials and the problems on the market, and to set up joint and small ventures that would correspond to the conditions and capabilities of a given industry.

Political Parties, Establishment Dates, Key Goals Listed

WS1902074493 Minsk BELINFORM in Russian 0816 GMT 18 Feb 93

["Political Parties"—BELINFORM headline]

[Text] 1. United Democratic Party. Established on 4 November 1990. The party aims at creating a civil society and a lawful state, based on human values and a pluralism of all spheres of social development.

2. Belarusian Peasant Party. Established on 23 February 1991. Its key goals are: the protection of peasants' political rights and interests, peasants' revival, and the restoration of land ownership.

3. Belarusian Social Democratic Assembly (Gromada). Began its activities on 4 March 1991. Designed to build a humane and democratic state on the basis of a multistructural economy, individual freedom, and social justice.

4. Belarusian National Democratic Party came into existence on 24 June 1990. It is a union of allies who are struggling for national revival and Belarus' sovereignty. Their key task is to allow the people to independently determine their future.

5. Belarusian Christian Democratic Union. Registered on 16 December 1991. Its key goal is the moral, spiritual, national, political, and economic revival of Belarus as a sovereign state.

6. Belarusian Communist Party. Its birthday is 7 December 1991. It is a union of hired workers which strives to fully free them of all sorts of exploitation. Its goal is a class-free society.

7. Party of People's Accord. Registered on 4 June 1992. Its goal is to build a civilized lawful state and to create due living conditions for everyone.

8. Belarusian United Agrarian Democratic Party. Set up on 13 June 1992. Its course is the reformation of the social system on the principles of democratic socialism. Party members express and defend the political, civil, economic, and other lawful interests of agrarians.

9. Slavic Union "Belaya Rus". Its Council held the first meeting on 6 June 1992. The union tries to defend Slavic interests in all spheres of social life proceeding from a union of Slavic people and the traditional values of the Slavic civilization.

10. Belarusian Scientific Industrial Congress. Began its activities on 22 October 1992. The party is engaged in the construction of a civilized lawful state, democratic and radical economic reform that would create normal living conditions for everyone.

11. Belarusian Green Party. Began its activities on 1 February 1992. The party tries to ensure the Belarusian people the right to a healthy environment.

Moldova

President Again Warns Deputies of Possible Coup

OW1802180693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1553 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Thursday [18 February], Moldovan President Mircea Snegur warned the deputies once more against the danger of a state coup.

Responding to the deputies' inquiry about his statement last week, he told parliament that he had received a letter which said there was the danger of a coup. He also said that he was guided by his intuition and by recent developments.

Making his point clear, he quoted the opposition representative's call for the physical extermination of the president and prime minister. He also referred to the campaign for unification with Romania and for the elimination of Moldova as an independent state, to anti-presidential and anti-state slogans during opposition meetings, to pickets in front of the president's residence and to recent publications in the opposition press.

"In view of this, I would like to warn the people against the danger of a coup," said Mircea Snegur. "I'm categorically against violence, and I cannot keep silent knowing that the opposition, open and covert, is leading us to violence."

Warning Based on 'Personal Intuition'

AU1802204293 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1800 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Text] Moldovan President Mircea Snegur today took the floor in Parliament, commenting on his warning to the population that things that are happening in the republic could end in a coup.

President Snegur asserted that the statement was prompted by personal intuition based on various press items that have been published over recent months, rallies which were held in connection with various issues near his office and home, during which protesters chanted slogans in support of the reunification with the mother country, Romania, and against joining the CIS.

Quoting the speech delivered yesterday by Member of Parliament Nadejda Branzan, who said that neither the police, nor the Army, and not even riflemen would be able to offer help to certain people, just as they could not help [former Romanian dictator] Ceausescu either, President Snegur said that under such circumstances he is refraining from continuing his speech on that issue, MOLDOVA-PRES reports.

Principles for Dniestr Settlement Approved at Talks

OW1802222593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1955 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At a regular round of negotiations in Benderi Thursday [18 February] on the settlement of the conflict in the Transdniestr area, representatives from Moldova and Transdniestr agreed on a final version of the basic principles for normalizing the situation. State advisor to the Moldovan president Nikolay Kirtoake announced this to INTERFAX.

In addition, Kirtoake said, at the meeting the parties agreed upon a draft of a statement on measures increasing trust during the period of negotiations between Chisinau and Tiraspol. The presidential advisor said the document allows for measures except actions which could destabilize the situation. The statement will be signed by representatives of the two sides in the near future.

The next round of negotiations is scheduled for Monday, February 22, in Benderi.

Dniestr Leader Says Region To Remain in Ruble Zone

OW1802181493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1554 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Transdniestr Region remains, and will remain in the near future, in the ruble zone, said the President of the self-proclaimed Republic of Transdniestr, Igor Smirnov, in Tiraspol on Wednesday [17 February]. He said that Transdniestr might introduce its own ruble.

In the meantime, according to observers, Transdniestr's intention to remain in the ruble zone aggravates the problem concerning Moldova's plans to introduce its own national currency, the lei. Experts from the International Monetary Fund recommended that Moldova should introduce its own currency only on condition that it will be used throughout its territory. As long as the issue of a special status for Transdniestr remains open, the Moldovan lei is not likely to be adopted by the Tiraspol authorities.

Armenia

Rally Demanding Constituent Assembly Held in Yerevan

NC1802151093 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1400 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Text] A rally sponsored by the National Self-Determination Association [NSDA] was held in Yerevan's Theater Square today. The leader of NSDA, Paruyr Hayrikyan; the deputy leader of NSDA, (Arno) Zadikyan; and others addressed the rally on socio-economic problems in the republic. Like previous rallies organized by NSDA, the participants demanded the immediate convocation of a constituent assembly.

'Tens of Thousands' Protest

NC1802155393 Paris AFP in English 1511 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Text] Yerevan, Feb 18 (AFP)—Tens of thousands of demonstrators protesting about months of economic stagnation in Armenia packed the centre of the capital on Thursday [18 February] and called on the government to resign. Armed interior ministry troops guarded the official residence of President Levon Ter-Petrosyan, where the demonstrators paraded peacefully.

The turnout was organised by the National Self-Determination Association, whose leader Paruyr Hayrikyan called for the convening of a constituent assembly to draft a new constitution.

He said a 15-member provisional state council should be named to hold power for three months after the president's resignation, comprising all Armenia's political movements. He proposed three members from the main opposition party, the socialist Dashnak [Armenia Revolutionary Federation], three from his group, seven representatives for the small parties, and a delegate from the presidency or the government.

Premier Gives First News Conference, Notes Foreign Aid

NC1802220193 Yerevan Radio Yerevan International Service in Armenian 1630 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Text] Yesterday, following the announcement of the new cabinet by the Armenian president, Armenia's new Prime Minister Grant Bagratyan held his first news conference. As expected, the premier spoke about the situation in the republic and replied to reporter's questions.

The premier said the new government is a league of young, decent, and hard-working people who have a single ideological direction. He also said that the composition of the government is not final and that work will continue this week to fill the positions in the state ministries. It will be done on the principle of distribution of important economic problems to the state ministers.

He said that deep structural changes will be introduced into the the socio-economic policy by taking into account the possible (?worsening) of the war situation.

Bagratyan said he has formulated a major credit program in the last 10 days. The first credit agreement was signed in Washington two days ago with the World Bank. The credit amounts to $13 million with 7.43 percent interest rate to be repaid within 17 years. The repayments will start after four years. The credit will be used primarily for the consolidation of the state structures. We will also be receiving $2 million from the London-based European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. The EC has responded to Armenia's request and soon an Armenian delegation will go to Brussels to obtain food credits up to 30 million ECU [European currency unit]. The World Bank representatives have already arrived in Yerevan to study the provision of credits for reconstruction in the earthquake disaster zone. This credit will go into operation in September 1993 at the latest. The amount of the credit is still unknown.

The prime minister also said that the republic has succeeded in obtaining large investments. Some five enterprises, such as Transistor, [names of other enterprises indistinct] have submitted projects to the American (Obis) firm. Transistor has received $10 million in investments.

The prime minister said that our main task will be to create the necessary conditions to enable our people to work.

Prime Minister Bagratyan said this year's socio-economic program will not be submitted to the parliament until the middle of March. The program will differ substantially from the previous program.

The prime minister also noted that Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin signed a document a few days ago providing 2 billion rubles of credit for the earthquake disaster zone. Let us hope that the Russian parliament will approve it. The prime minister said he deeply appreciates this decision. Viktor Chernomyrdin also signed a special decree on 22 December stating that no obstacles will be created for goods destined for Armenia, even if the goods come through third countries such as Iran. This sort of arrangement is rare in Russian history.

The prime minister also declared that Iran will be one of the most important partners in our economy.

Comments on New Cabinet

OW1802194493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1714 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Introducing the new cabinet, President Levon Ter-Petrosyan said it is the third one to function in conditions of crisis.

The president denied claims that appointments were prompted by political interests and personal faithfulness. He said there are only four members of the ruling Armenian National Movement among the ministers.

"I cannot guarantee that the cabinet is ideal, of course," the president admitted, adding that there are ministers from the

old cabinet on it which means they did well and this places additional responsibility on them.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: Only ten out of the 34 cabinet members are newcomers.

The president regretted the absence of due response from political parties during preliminary consultations because this could have expanded "the field of vision and helped to choose the best option." Ter-Petrosyan stressed that the opinion of the current prime-minister was taken into account in forming the cabinet and he can call it his team. The president also confirmed his readiness for constructive cooperation with any political forces on reform policies.

New prime-minister Grant Bagratyan said his main task is to win public trust by taking reasonable and well-considered steps.

At a news conference in Yerevan he criticized the previous governments to which he also belonged. Among their greatest mistakes, he named the halt in introducing private ownership of land last summer, the groundless termination of privatization in services and the reluctance to solve savings bank problems.

The new premier thinks the main tasks of the cabinet are to solve the food problem in Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh and overcome the energy crisis. Bagratyan declared that his government is determined to continue economic reforms and introduce market relations.

The prime-minister said Armenia will expand economic relations with its closest neighbors as well as other foreign countries on the basis of bilateral and multilateral agreements. Armenia is not planning to introduce its own currency so far. But it should be ready to take the step, if developments take such a turn. Certain international organizations are demanding that, but Armenia intends to remain in the ruble zone.

Bagratyan said an agreement was signed last Monday according to which the World Bank will loan Armenia $13 million for 17 years. In London talks are under way on a $60 million energy credit from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. An agreement is in the makings with the European Community on a 30 million ECU [European Currency Unit] food credit.

Bagratyan said within the next few days the government plans to discuss putting the idle Armenian nuclear power station back into operation. He claimed the operation would require $100 million.

Stresses Economic Ties With Iran

OW1802193793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1749 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Armenian Prime Minister Grant Bagratyan said that, in the near future, Iran may become one of Armenia's closest economic partners.

He told INTERFAX that, while, for the whole of 1992, Armenia received from Iran a total of 220 tons of cargo - mainly food, medicaments, and clothing, - only in January 1993 it received 1800 tons. He said Armenia is very interested in the Iranian market, where goods produced by the Armenian electrical engineering industry is in great demand.

The Prime Minister also said Armenia would like to use communications giving Iran access to the European market, as well as Iranian ports on the Middle East Gulf and the Caspian.

Baku's Charge of Deploying Russian Troops Denied

OW1802222793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1956 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The press center of the Armenian Defense Ministry refuted Baku's message stating that two divisions of the Russian army withdrawn from Germany will be deployed in four republic's regions bordering Azerbaijan.

A statement distributed by the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry on Thursday [18 February] contained this assertion.

Karabakh Defense Committee Chairman Makes Radio Appeal

NC1802131793 Yerevan SNARK in English 0542 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Text] Stepanakert, February 17 (SNARK)—If the Karabakh Supreme Soviet Presidium considers inexpedient the State Committee's of Defence further functioning, established in connection with Azerbaijani aggression, it should accept all the responsibility and functions of the committee on realization the war-time conditions regime in Karabakh, appealed Robert Kocharyan [chairman of Karabakh Defense Committee] to the Karabakh population over the local radio. Marsel Petrosyan, the head of Karabakh press and information department, informed SNARK's reporter that the period of [the] committee's validity had expired by February 14. Some days earlier, the Supreme Soviet Presidium of Karabakh has prolonged the war-time regime for three more months at the closed meeting without representatives of the defence committee. According to Kocharyan, this decision is not a way out of the situation, as such a regime is necessary till the end of the war in Karabakh. Press and information department has an information that at present some regions of Karabakh support the idea of war-time regime extension till the end of the war. Simultaneously, the Supreme Soviet Presidium is holding meetings for some days already, trying to find a "compromising decision," the press department authority said.

Karabakh Delegation To Attend CSCE Rome Meeting

NC1802215993 Yerevan Radio Yerevan International Service in Armenian 1630 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Text] Manuel Sargisyan, the permanent representative of Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] in Armenia, told

INTERFAX that the Italian Embassy in Moscow has invited the representatives of Nagorno-Karabakh to take part in Rome meeting planned for 26 February. The meeting's goal is to resolve the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict.

Sargisyan informed a SNARK correspondent on 17 February that the NKR Supreme Soviet Presidium formed a four-member delegation that will take part in the conference.

Levon Melik-Shakhnazaryan, chairman of NKR Supreme Soviet Standing Commission on Foreign Relations, will head the NKR delegation.

Turkey Ready To Supply Power to Country

PM1802151593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Feb 93 p 3

[Vladimir Khovratovich report: "Turkey Ready To Supply Energy to Armenia"]

[Text] Ankara—As Turkey's Power Industry Committee has reported, the 150 km of power lines from Kars to Akyaka and Akhuryan to Gyumri (formerly Leninakan) are ready to begin supplying electricity to Armenia.

According to the committee's spokesman, a large proportion of the power lines was installed five years ago to enable the Soviet Union to export electricity to eastern Turkey.

A meeting was held in Kars recently on the subject of electricity. Addressing the meeting, Mehmet Yilmaz, representative of Turkey's chamber of trade and industry, called for an end to hostility between Turks and Armenians and advocated the establishment of friendly relations.

Scarcely had the participants in the public debate left than the Azerbaijani president's press service in Baku delivered a sharp protest to Ankara condemning the humanitarian aid to Armenia.

Ankara has not yet reacted to Baku's protest.

News Agencies 'Paralyzed;' Hope Government Can Help

NC1802132593 Yerevan SNARK in English 1123 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Text] Yerevan, February 18 (SNARK)—For more than two weeks the activity of the Armenian news agencies is paralyzed because of the nearly twenty-four-hour blackout. The building, where the state information agency of ARMENPRES and independent agencies of SNARK and NOYAN TAPAN are placed, is also practically without electric energy. At the best, the reporters have only 2-3 hours a day to work under electric light, which leaves no possibility to send to their subscribers operative information in time, as many of them live in different countries. However, SNARK agency expresses hope, that the Armenian Government will find ways out in spite of the electric energy crisis, to ensure normal conditions for its information agencies. News from Armenia, which is a hot spot in our days, are awaited impatiently in many places of the world.

Azerbaijan

Masimov Discusses Economic Situation With APF Leaders

NC1802213193 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Text] Acting Prime Minister Ali Masimov, Minister of Finance Salih Mamedov, Minister of Trade Ridvan Guseynov, and Customs Committee Chairman Ibragim Veliyev visited the Azerbaijan People's Front [APF] headquarters today. They held talks with Farazh Kuliyev, head of the APF Executive Committee, and other leading APF officials focusing on the situation in the republic and measures to alleviate existing economic problems.

Ministry Accuses Russian Military of Helping Armenia

OW1802191393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1749 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Azerbaijani Defense Ministry has accused the Russian armed forces of taking part in the Azerbaijani-Armenian conflict on Armenia's side.

In a statement published on Thursday [18 February], the ministry says Russian forces are taking part in offensive operations in northern Nagorno- Karabakh. They are units of the 128th motorized infantry regiment of the 127th Gyumri Division of the Russian Seventh Army stationed in Armenia, as well as Cossack forces.

According to the ministry, the Russian government has decided to deploy in Armenia, at the latter's request, two divisions withdrawn from Germany. They are to be stationed in Idzhevan, Berd, Krasnoselsk, and Vardenis Districts bordering on Azerbaijan.

"Considering the sad experience of units of the Russian Seventh Army being extensively used in hostilities against Azerbaijan, it would be logical to expect even more active participation on the part of Russia in the Armenian- Azerbaijani conflict on the side of Armenia," the ministry says.

Envoy: Russian, Azerbaijani Democrats Should Cooperate

LD1802224693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2123 GMT 18 Feb 93

[By AZERTAC corresondent Svetlana Krasnova]

[Text] Baku February 19 TASS—Valter Shoniya, Russia's ambassador to Azerbaijan, spoke in favour of a need to enhance cooperation among democratic forces of Azerbaijan and Russia, especially, between the People's Front of Azerbaijan and the "Democratic Russia."

Shoniya, particularly emphasised that these political movements more fruitfully cooperated with each other during those difficult times, when they were in the opposition to the former structures of power in Russia as well as in Azerbaijan.

At the same time he regretted that contacts with each other are not so active, as they were in those days. Their broad development can only benefit peoples of both states, the Russian ambassador said.

The envoy also noted that Russia sees its policy in this region in the harmoniousness of the interests of the two countries only. Interests of Russia and Azerbaijan can not be at variance, instead they can only enrich one another, he emphasised.

Government Denies Protesting Humanitarian Aid to Armenia

NC1802201693 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Text] IZVESTIYA published a report by [name indistinct] on 13 February entitled: Turkey is prepared to supply electricity to Armenia. The report said the Azerbaijan Presidential Press Service has criticized the humanitarian aid given to Armenia and protested Ankara's approach on the matter. Ankara has been [words indistinct] by Baku's protest.

The Azerbaijan Presidential Press Service has informed AZERTAC that Azerbaijan has not lodged a protest to any country on the issue of humanitarian aid to Armenia. Criticizing the effort made to [words indistinct], the press service said it is unacceptable to spread such unfounded reports. It asserted, however, that Azerbaijan has reported several times that Armenia is using its foreign humanitarian aid to broaden its aggression, that this situation has made Azerbaijan uneasy, and that the evidence that has been put forward to confirm these reports has been ignored.

Turkish Envoy Says 'Mafia' Delivering Oil to Armenia

NC1802175493 Baku TURAN in English 1355 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Text] Baku, 18 Feb (TURAN)—Bodies of the Azerbaijani mafia deliver fuel to Armenia via the territory of Georgia, said the Ambassador of Turkey in Azerbaijan Altan Karamanoglu in the talk with the TURAN correspondent. The ambassador considers that it makes clear the presence of fuel in Armenia for carrying military activities against Azerbaijan.

The Turkish ambassador informed also that the same people deliver black caviar to Yerevan which is more qualitative than that, used in Baku. In this connection the Turkish diplomat recommended the authority of Azerbaijan to put the country in order.

Such a peremptory statement of the Turkish ambassador obviously has a purpose to allay negative reaction of the society of Azerbaijan to activities of the Turkish government.

But the ambassador forgets that contacts of mafias of the both countries have illegal nature, whereas the aid of Turkey for Armenia is the display of state policy.

To all appearances, ardent wish of Turkey to be accepted in the common market will not allow official figures of this country to differ activity of criminal groups from the state policy.

Georgia

Russia's Shakhray Says Abkhaz Conflict Hurts Treaty

OW1802223893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1953 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The conflict in Abkhazia complicates the negotiating of an extensive treaty between Russia and Georgia, said Vice-Premier Sergey Shakhray at a meeting in Tbilisi with Vakhtang Goguadze, Deputy Chairman of the Georgian Parliament, INTERFAX was told in the press center of E. Shevardnadze, the Georgian head of state.

At that meeting, which was also attended by Ramazan Abdulatipov, Chairman of the House of Nationalities of the Russian Supreme Soviet, Shakhray admitted that Georgia is the sole former Soviet republic which has no legally defined relations with Russia.

Goguadze insisted that the Russo-Georgian relations should not be linked with the conflict in Abkhazia.

The parties admitted, the press center reported, that both Russia and Georgia break the agreements signed in Dagomys and Moscow, on resolving the conflicts in South Ossetia and Abkhazia.

The Georgian representatives said that Russia has to close its border with Abkhazia in order to stop the influx of volunteers from North Caucasus into Abkhazia.

Shevardnadze's press center reported that Vladimir Zemsky, the Russian Ambassador, who was also present, told the meeting that the Russian paratrooper battalion which guards the area of a military research laboratory in the village of Nizhnyaya Eshera in the environs of Sukhumi will be withdrawn within a week.

The parties failed to agree on the return from North Ossetia of refugees into South Ossetia.

On Tuesday night Shakhray and Abdulatipov met with Shevardnadze, the Georgian head of state, behind closed doors. No details of the meeting are immediately known.

Civic Diplomacy Mission Gives Moscow News Briefing

PM1902130793 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 18 Feb 93 p 5

[Georgiy Ivanov-Smolenskiy report: "Civic Diplomacy in Search for Peace in Abkhazia"]

[Text] The Independent Mission for Civic Diplomacy, which has visited the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict zone and Tbilisi, held a press conference in the Russian Foreign Ministry Press Center.

The mission was formed by the International Committee for Civic Diplomacy, the International Foundation for Humanitarian Initiatives, and the "Civic Peace" association. Its activity in the conflict zone during the first half of February was coordinated with Eduard Shevardnadze and Vladislav Ardzinba, and was also supported by Ruslan Khasbulatov. The staff of the mission was international, comprising Russians, Georgians, and Abkhazians.

As a result of numerous meetings, both with ordinary people drawn into the fratricidal war and with leaders of the warring sides, including the Confederation of Caucasian Peoples, the participants in the mission came to a unanimous conclusion: Both sides alike want the speediest end to the bloody conflict. As for ways of achieving peace, the immediate task here is to elaborate a mechanism to put an end to hostilities as quickly as possible. The Georgians believe that UN forces should separate the warring sides, but the Abkhazians believe that Russian or CIS forces are up to such a task, so the difficult task of coordinating positions will have to be carried out here.

According to members of the mission, the "Russian factor" is important in Abkhazia. Whipping up this factor, and indeed any other factor that increases the tension of the situation, is completely inadmissible, it was said at the press conference.

It was decided to make the Independent Mission for Civic Diplomacy dealing with the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict a permanent mission. It intends to present its proposals on the settlement of the conflict to the Georgian, Abkhazian, and Russian leaderships.

Caucasian Peoples Reaffirm Support for Abkhazia

PM1802124993 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 17 Feb 93 p 1

["Own Information" report: "For Our and Your Capital. Ardzinba Writes to United Nations While Confederates Prepare for Attack"]

[Text] We live in a situation of connecting units—that is not news. If a noise is made in Tbilisi there will be an echo in Gudauta—that is a detail. On this occasion there was an echo in Pitsunda, where an extended session of the Confederation of Caucasian Peoples Presidium took place. The session was attended by representatives of 16 Caucasian nationalities, envoys of the foreign Abkhazian diaspora in Turkey, and all officials: Abkhazian Supreme Soviet Chairman V. Ardzinba and Musa (Yuriy according to his passport) Shabinov, president of the Confederation of Caucasian Peoples.

"Georgia is trying to instigate a second Caucasian war," Shabinov stated, "perfectly well aware that the North Caucasus will never leave Abkhazia facing an aggressor on its own. But the peaceful way of solving the conflict is not yet closed; Georgia must realize that it cannot win this war. The question is unequivocal: If we lose the war in Abkhazia we lose the entire Caucasus."

Just so. No more and no less. In passing Denga Khalidov, deputy president of the Confederation of Caucasian Peoples and a representative of Dagestan, reported that the peoples of Dagestan will not leave the fraternal people of Abkhazia in trouble and "will give all possible financial and humanitarian aid."

Parallels were long ago noted between the Russian-Georgian talks process, the intensification of the Confederation of Caucasian Peoples' activity, and consequently the exacerbation of the situation on the Georgian-Abkhazian front. The conference in Pitsunda took place immediately after Eduard Shevardnadze's statement that a treaty with Russia is of paramount importance to Georgia as the Russian side's confirmation of the sovereignty and immutability of Georgia's borders.

It was noted at the Confederation of Caucasian Peoples session that, despite the defense deployed in depth around Sukhumi, all measures will be taken to liberate the Abkhazian capital, which is simultaneously capital of the Confederation of Caucasian Peoples. Vladislav Ardzinba signed several resolutions which have been sent to the Russian leadership and the United Nations.

Estonia

Laar: Entry Permits for Russians Possibly 'Forged'

WS1802151593 Tallinn BNS in English 1852 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Text] Tallinn, Feb 17, BNS—Estonian Premier Mart Laar said Tuesday [16 February] that the permits allowing the Russian soldiers to enter Estonia in January may have been forged.

In an Estonian TV broadcast, Laar said that the number and date of the general permit issued and later on annulled by the Defence Minister do not correspond to those on the permits shown on the border. Laar says he suspects that some or all of the permits were issued without the knowledge of Defence Minister Hain Rebas.

The border defence worked inadequately, Laar said.

Government officials discovered last week that about 200 Russian troops entered Estonia on three days in the end of January. Laar has denied any previous knowledge of the entrance, and officials have been scrambling to discover who signed the permit for their passage.

The Ministry of Defence is carrying out an official investigation on the authenticity of the permits. The border defence department has already completed its inquiries. A border defence officer who insisted on anonymity told BNS that in order to clear up the incident, airports, ports and railways were checked during the course of the whole week.

On Feb. 12, Director General of the Border Defence Department Andrus Oovel handed over to Premier Mart Laar a report confirming the legality of the Russian soldiers' entrance, said the officer.

"I have seen the general permit bearing the signature of the defence minister. Concrete permits were always issued by the construction department of the ministry. This year, about 65 such permits, plus several without numbers have been issued," the anonymous officer told BNS.

He was indignant that a home political scandal concerning the Russian soldiers intake has burst out. "We never counted on our own men shooting [us] in the back," he said.

Controversy Over Additional Russian Troops To Be Deployed

LD1802132293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1111 GMT 18 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Maloveryan]

[Text] Tallinn February 18 TASS—Estonian MPs are calling for a special session of the parliament to discuss a government report on the issued permission to move additional Russian troops into the republic.

The permission, according to different sources, sanctioning the arrival of 180-300 more Russian servicemen in the country, was issued by the Estonian Defence Minister Hain Rebas and approved by Prime Minister Mart Laar. It came as a reply to the request of the Russian command, which is short of men to evacuate army supplies and hardware from Estonia.

The centrist opposition, responsible for the row, regards the permission as a dangerous political precedent, because it sanctions for the first time an increase of the numerical strength of foreign troops, whose unconditional withdrawal was demanded by Estonia even before the declaration of the republic's independence.

After the opposition's demarche, the government has acknowledged the political mistake committed by the defence minister, who was allegedly misinformed by his advisers, and has announced the permit's annulment. Nevertheless, it came under further criticism, this time for falsehood and attempts to conceal the truth from the people. A confidence crisis is brewing and the ruling coalition will hardly be able to surmount it without losses. The least it can expect, analysts believe, is the resignation of Defence Minister Hain Rebas, reserve captain of the Swedish Armed Forces. It is quite indicative that he is attacked both by centrists and Estonian royalists, dreaming for an Estonian kingdom headed by a Swedish prince.

According to the law, an extraordinary session may be called on demand of not less than one-fifth of the parliament. About one-third of the MPs have already called for special hearings.

Citizenship Qualifications Eased for Some Residents

OW1802185293 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1750 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Parliament in Tallinn on Thursday [18 February] approved a simplified procedure of granting citizenship to some of its residents.

Under the new law, applicants for Estonian citizenship with permanent residence in the country who registered themselves as such before the election to the Estonian Congress in February 1991 can be naturalized without having to take an examination testifying the knowledge of Estonian.

The Estonian Congress which dissolved itself after elections to the State Assembly was a public organization uniting the citizens of pre-war Estonia and their descendants which had acted as an alternative parliament issuing certificates to applicants for Estonian citizenship. A Congress official put the number of such people at about 30,000, most of them locally-residing Estonians, though certificates were also granted to ethnic Estonians residing elsewhere.

The new legislation re-introduces Clause 23 of the 1938 citizenship law which does not apply to naturalized citizens whose citizenship can be withdrawn in certain cases such as employment or military service by another country.

Latvia

Draft on Displaced Persons Presented To UN

OW1802211493 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1957 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Thursday [18 February] at a press conference in Riga Georg Andreyev, the Latvian Foreign Minister, declared that Latvia intends to submit its draft resolution "On displaced persons and their status in the Latvian Republic and in the Estonian Republic" to the next plenary session of the U.N. commission on human rights.

The Minister said that the document will reflect the position of the Foreign Ministry headed by him according to which, "residents of Latvia and Estonia who settled here after 1940 are displaced persons but not national minorities in these states as Russia's representatives assert." In addition, the draft resolution will state that in Latvia these persons can probably change their status after the elections to the Seimas scheduled for this summer and "in the social-economic sphere these persons enjoy equal with the Latvian citizens rights, for example, the right to receive vouchers, the right to receive the primary and secondary education in their native language." Andrejevs also declared that "as legal successor of the former Soviet Union, Russia should recognize all citizens of the USSR living outside Russia as their citizens."

Government To Require Entry Visas as of 20 Mar

OW1702213493 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1939 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Latvian government has developed a draft resolution on introduction of visa regime on the republic's territory. According to the document, the new regime will be put into force on March 20. Foreign citizens wishing to enter Latvia can receive visas either in Latvia's diplomatic mission in their state or directly on the border where employees of the Emigration Department will begin their work together with Latvian frontier guards and customs employees beginning with March 20. The visas are to be paid off in dollars.

The government has also envisaged transit visas of 48 hours duration costing $3 dollars. The resolution foresees that bilateral agreements can be concluded with some states and the cost of visas for citizens of these states can differ from that defined by the resolution.

Those states with which Latvia has signed appropriate agreements, namely, Lithuania, Estonia, Poland, Hungary, and Great Britain, will enjoy the right for non-visa entry to Latvia.

Employees of the Information department of the Latvian Foreign Ministry reported to our BALTFAX correspondent that Latvia's Embassy to Moscow is the only diplomatic mission of Latvia on the CIS territory which can begin the work to hand over visas since March 20. The preparatory work to open embassies in Minsk, Kiev, Tashkent, and consulates in St. Petersburg, Vitebsk, and Pskov is underway.

Lithuania

Lubys Asked To Remain as Prime Minister

OW1802185093 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1751 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Lithuanian newspaper LIETUVOS RYTAS, citing official sources, said Prime Minister Bronislovas Lubys has been asked to remain in his post.

Lubys has repeatedly said that he accepted the premier's post at the beginning of December 1992 on condition that he would only hold it until the presidential election of February 14 was over.

President-elect Algirdas Brazauskas said during the election campaign that he would propose a "serious candidate" to the prime minister's post but did not give his name either during the campaign or after it.

On Monday [15 February], Brazauskas came to his first press conference after the election with the coordinator of his election campaign, Academician Raimundas Rajackas, a well-known economist, which many of the journalists saw as an indication that the premier's post might be offered to Rajackas.

Electoral Commission Announces Election Results

OW1802135793 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1222 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Thursday [18 February], Lithuania's Electoral Commission officially announced that Algirdas Mykolas Brazauskas had been elected Lithuania's president.

As many as 60.03% of the citizens who took part in the election cast their votes for Brazauskas. Lithuania's Ambassador to the United States, Stasys Lozoraitis, scored 38.28% of the votes.

The Electoral Commission announced that out of Lithuania's 2,568,016 voters, 2,190,015 came to the polling stations.

Chairman of the Electoral Commission Vaclovas Litvinas presented the president's card to Brazauskas.

According to the current law, the inauguration ceremony will take place on the fifth day following the official announcement of the election returns (February 25).

Landsbergis Proposes 'Presidential Political Conference'

OW1702184493 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1742 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A statement, voiced by the opposition leader Vytautas Landsbergis on behalf of the parliamentary opposition on Wednesday [17 February] at a plenary session of the Seimas, cites that the opposition of the Lithuanian parliament hopes that the republic's president "will defend the state and lawfulness and will take care of the interests of the state but not of the party." The statement points out that according to constitutional provisions, the leader of Democratic Labor Party, Algirdas Brazauskas, who was elected as President of Lithuania, cannot participate in the activity of political parties. At the same time this document expresses the hope that the new head of the state will lean on Lithuania's influential political forces presented, in particular, in Seimas.

The opposition proposes to create "a special consultative structure, a presidential political conference formed on the principle of democratic representation" which, the statement says, "would discuss the state policy and would try to form a policy of wide coalition but not of one party."

Opposition Questions Constitutional Court Appointments

LD1902095193 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in English 0000 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Text] The first judge of the nine members of the Lithuanian Constitutional Court was sworn in to office at a full scale meeting of the Seimas today. The candidature of Mr. Juozas Zilys was approved by parliament yesterday. Aged 50, Mr. Juozas Zilys was, prior to the new appointment, the head of the legal department of the Seimas. Since no new members of the Constitutional Court are appointed by that time, Mr. Zilys will take the oath of President-elect Algirdas Brazauskas most probably next Thursday, February the 25th.

Yesterday the Seimas majority voted down two other candidates to the Constitutional Court: ex-Member of Parliament Ludvikas Sabutis and professor at Vilnius University Stasys Staciokas.

Today the Seimas opposition made a statement saying that the DLP [Democratic Labor Party] was seeking through its MP's to turn the Constitutional Court into an obedient tool of the party. The Seimas opposition called upon the president of Lithuania to exert his influence so that the candidatures of Mr. Ludvikas Sabutis and Mr. Stasys Staciokas be presented for consideration of the Seimas again.

Parliamentary Opposition Demands Television Time

OW1902131493 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1204 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Lithuania's parliamentary opposition demanded that the administration of national TV reserves an hour a week for it in the peak viewing time.

In a letter to the director of Lithuanian Radio and TV, read out in parliament on Thursday [18 February], the opposition complained about infringements upon its right to express its views freely and stated that the citizens' constitutional right to know what the opposition thinks about the most vitally important problems was violated.

The letter also expresses confidence that at least 40 per cent of the population are interested in the opposition's views and that shortly opposition will have the "elementary right to communicate with the people through TV."

Democratic Labor Party Holds Post-Election Session

OW1902131693 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1204 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Council of Lithuania's Democratic Labor Party convened for a session in Vilnius on Friday [19 February].

As the party's deputy chairman, Vitalijus Gerzonas, told BF [BALTFAX]'s correspondent, the session is to discuss issues connected with the election of the party leader, Algirdas Brazauskas, as Lithuania's president.

Since under the country's legislation the president must not participate in the activity of parties or movements, at the session Brazauskas is expected to make a statement on suspending his party membership.

The session will also adopt a resolution on preparations for a party congress to be held in mid May. Council members are planning to decide who will serve as the acting chairman of Lithuania's Democratic Labor Party till the congress, said Gerzonas.

No Results in Dialogue Between Government, Trade Unions

OW1802185893 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1751 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The negotiations between the Lithuanian Prime Minister Bronislovas Lubys and the representatives of the republic's trade unions, completed on Wednesday [17 February], have brought no concrete results.

During the meeting the trade union leaders once more proposed to sign an agreement with the government according to which, mutual relations between two parties should be based on a dialogue and mutual understanding. Lubys promised to submit the draft agreement to the government for consideration, however, he criticized several provisions of this document.

According to Lubys, many concrete demands of the trade unions, including the increase of minimum subsistence level from 1,600 60 4,00 [figures as received] coupons, are appropriate. However, he pointed out that it is possible to implement them only following the adoption of the state budget for 1993 by the Seimas. The Premier also agreed to the necessity to introduce changes to several decrees in order to improve the coordinated activity of the government and trade unions.

At their previous meeting on February 4, the representatives of trade unions demanded that the head of the government should sign this document before February 10.

Gylys Meets Danish Foreign Ministry Official

WS1802120693 Vilnius ELTA NEWS BULLETIN in English 1602 GMT 17 Feb 93

[From ELTA "NEWS BULLETIN" No. 187]

[Text] 17 February 1993—On February 15, Lithuania's Foreign Affairs Minister Povilas Gylys was on a short work visit in Copenhagen. P. Gylys met with Minister Helle Degn of the Danish Foreign Affairs Ministry, who is responsible for questions on the aid to Eastern European countries.

P. Gylys talked about the presidential election results, the priorities of Lithuania's foreign policies and especially stressed the importance of relations with Western states. The minister said that Lithuania will continue to follow the path of reforms, will build a free and democratic society.

Concrete Danish aid to Lithuania was discussed at the meeting. Minister Helle Degn spoke of new projects of help to Lithuania. They will be further detailed when she will visit Lithuania.

From Copenhagen Minister P. Gylys left for his next official visit in Stockholm.

Trade Minister Visits Central Asia, Signs Agreements

WS1802123293 Vilnius ELTA NEWS BULLETIN in English 1604 GMT 17 Feb 93

[From ELTA "NEWS BULLETIN" No. 187]

[Text] 17 February 1993—A group of Lithuania's ministry, department and enterprise leaders finished their ten day trip through Central Asia's republics. During that time the group managed to coordinate and sign inter-state trade and economic co-operation agreements with Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Kazakstan.

Head of the delegation, Industry and Trade Minister Albertas Sinevicius noted, that these agreements open paths for various relations for both countries' state and private enterprises and organisations. Until the signing of the agreements, many problems were raised on the transportation of raw material from these countries to Lithuania and for the transportation of our products to Asia. Asian enterprise and organisation representatives refused to speak of co-operation until the signing of agreements.

The signed documents foresee the quantity and which products can be exported and imported into the countries. Lithuania anticipates to import many various metals, cotton, charcoal, wool, leather, grain and to export milk powder, milk, canned fish and meat, beef and light electronic and mechanical industry products. On both lists there are at least a hundred names.

These agreements are very important for Lithuania. Eighteen thousand tons of cotton are expected from these countries; it will fulfill the country's demand. It is also agreed to receive a year's supply of material which is needed for television screens.

The use of the Klaipeda port for the export of production by these four Asian countries was discussed, as well as joint-ventures. It is anticipated that free trade agreements will be signed with some of these countries in the near future.

A. Sinevicius noted that the inter-state trade and economic agreements with Kyrgyztan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Kazakstan had to be signed in November and the countries agreed that the contents of the agreement for 1994 will be signed in November - December of this year in Vilnius.